



GPU NEWS

October 1977

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IMMIGRATION POLICY TO CHANGE

Washington, D.C.—Meetings held in August between members of two federal agencies and representatives of the National Gay Task Force have produced results which NGTF officials unanimously regard with optimism. The two federal agencies are the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and the U.S. Civil Rights Commission (CRC).

Deliberations with INS representatives lasted several hours, and included talks with Lionel Castrillo (INS Commissioner), several officials of INS, Eric Richards (Special INS Assistant for the Justice Dept.), and the following White House Representatives: Margaret Constanza (Assistant to the President), Robert Maulson (Domestic Policy), and Marilyn Haft (Public Liaison). NGTF representatives were accompanied to the meetings by a distinguished team of top staff attorneys from the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Committee for Sexual Civil Liberties. As a result of the meeting, the INS has agreed to review its policies affecting lesbians and gay men.

INS officials also acknowledged that a double standard exists in the application of various provisions of the law, and confirmed that in many instances gays are also required to meet higher standards for establishing "good moral character" (a principal requisite for aliens) than are heterosexuals. In its admission that at least some policies were unjust, INS officials agreed to review all policies and issues relevant to gays.

Officials of INS also indicated that they have already modified policies so that homosexuality per se is no longer a factor precluding establishment of "good moral character" in naturalization proceedings. INS General Counsel David Crossland agreed to provide NGTF with detailed data on the numbers of lesbians and gay men who have been excluded from the U.S. when applying for visitor's visas, immigration, or naturalization.

NGTF officials have also been lob-

bing CRC officials for over a year. As a result of another meeting held in August, the CRC has announced that it does have jurisdiction over anti-gay discrimination in the area of "administration of justice." The CRC is a highly respected study group which makes formal recommendations to the Congress, though it has no enforcement power. The CRC is headed by Ford Administration holdover Arthur Fleming.

"Administration of justice"—the area in which the CRC now claims jurisdiction—includes discrimination in courts, prisons, and law enforcement agencies. The Commission also ruled that it has no jurisdiction in the areas of housing and employment discrimination. Though NGTF representatives, at a meeting with

CRC officials held on August 24, argued that the Commission did not have jurisdiction in the areas of anti-gay discrimination in housing and employment, these arguments were rejected by CRC officials.

Though the CRC has announced that it plans to do no studies of anti-gay discrimination in the immediate future, NGTF co-director Jean O'Leary said that there was hope that at least one study would be done. Such studies could be done in the areas of police brutality, denial of legal aid funds to gays, unequal treatment under sodomy laws, child custody, and discrimination against gay prisoners. The NGTF has announced that it will continue to lobby for the initiation of studies of these kinds.

IWY SUPPORTS GAYS

Kansas City, Mo.—The Missouri State Conference for International Women's Year ended with a show of support for gay rights. Though there were no workshops dealing with lesbian issues, an ad hoc lesbian caucus was formed, and issued a formal protest against the lack of effort by the State Committee to reach lesbian and other minority communities.

Three resolutions were proposed by the caucus: 1) that the IWY Conference support the right of all women to choose their own sexuality, 2) that the Conference support the right of child-raising by all persons,

irrespective of their sexual orientation, and 3) that it recommend the decriminalization of homosexuality nation-wide.

The Chairwoman was willing to include the entire statement in the Conference Report to the National Commission, opponents demanded that it be brought up for vote on the Conference floor. Much to the surprise of the caucus members, it passed 194-141, thus joining the list of resolutions which elected delegates to the National Convention will be bound to support there.

TBC UNDER FIRE BY POST OFFICE

Sinclair, Me.—The Teddy Bear Club, a gay mail-order and pen-pal club in existence for five years, has been charged by U.S. Postal authorities with distribution of obscene materials through the mail. In early September the owner of TBC was arrested, and all equipment and files of TBC were seized by the post office.

The owner, Ted Gray, was released later in the month on \$25,000

bail and is presently seeking the court release of equipment and files. A legal fund has also been established to finance the prospective defense and other legal proceedings. Assistance from members or past patrons of TBC is sought in the form both of donations and signed letters stating one's opinion of the club. Further information is available from: TBC, Box 91, Sinclair, Me 04779.

MC NEILL BOWS TO PRESSURE



by Henry Phillips

Chicago, Ill.—The most powerful presence that was felt at the Third International Convention of Dignity, held at Chicago's Bismark Hotel on September 2-5, belonged to a person who was not there.

The officers of Dignity, an organization for gay Catholics working for reform within the structure of the Church, had invited Father John McNeill, S.J., to speak at the convention. The author of **The Church and The Homosexual**, a major work examining and questioning the traditional Catholic view of homosexuality, Fr. McNeill had planned to deliver a major address entitled "The Book, One Year Later; The Keynote Four Years Later." (Fr. McNeill had been the keynote speaker at Dignity's first convention in 1973.)

Delegates to the convention were stunned when Fr. Thomas Oddo, the organization's secretary, announced at the opening ceremonies on Friday that Fr. McNeill had been forbidden by his superiors to attend or speak at the convention. The order actually came from Franjo Cardinal Seper, head of the Church's Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith, and was transmitted through Rev. Pedro Arrupe, the Jesuit superior-general. Fr. McNeill was ordered not

to speak on homosexuality or sexual ethics, and was not to make any further appearances promoting his book or in connection with Dignity events. In addition, the **imprimi postest**—a church seal indicating that the contents of a given book are doctrinally sound (literal translation: "it can

be published")—was removed from all further editions of the book.

Fr. McNeill, in a short statement to the members of the convention, indicated that he had at first thought to disobey the order, but decided that his silence would be "more elo-

(Continued on page 6)



These photographs by Peter A. Melillo were taken in front of St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City on September 18 when Dignity/New York members leafleted the regular Sunday service, protesting the silencing of Father John McNeill. A public prayer was held after the service. McNeill attended the protest, but remained silent.



PUBLISHER DEAD

Milwaukee, Wi.—Funeral services were held in Milwaukee with burial services in Stevens Point for Stephen A. Walther who died on September 14. He had a brain tumor.

Walther, 33, was an early member of Gay Peoples Union. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point in 1971 and attended Holy Cross Seminary in LaCrosse before coming to Milwaukee.

He was the founder and publisher of *Astronomy*, which has been described as “the world’s most beautiful astronomy magazine.”

Steve is survived by two brothers; John Walther, who is in Germany, and David Walther, a Milwaukee attorney. He is also survived by his close friend and companion, Jerome Johnson.

McNeill from page 5

quent” than defiance. He also noted that the order did not demand a retraction or repudiation of his views and statements expressed in his book—an indication of hope for the future.

In place of Fr. McNeill’s address on September 3, his statement was read to the assembled members, who, after a brief dead silence, spontaneously broke into the hymn “They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love.” Three short speeches were then given by Fr. Robert Nugent, a Salvatorian priest from Washington, D.C., Brian McNaught and Paul Shanley of Boston. The talks urged Dignity members not to give up the struggle for recognition by and within the Church.

Other major addresses were given by Gregory Baum, a noted Catholic theologian from the University of Toronto, who spoke on “The Vocation of Homosexuals;” Barbara Gittings, coordinator of the Task Force on Gay Liberation of the American Library Association, whose topic was “The gay movement: Are we on the right track?,” and Patricia Nell Warren, author of *The Front Runner*, who gave a short



Stephen Andre Walther

Born to Life July 22, 1944

Born to Eternal Life September 14, 1977

speech at the banquet and dinner-dance that was held on Saturday.

While delegates from each of Dignity’s 70 chapters hammered out committee reports and elected new officers, other members attended such workshops as “Gay life styles,” “Dignity and the media,” and “Gay relationships—gay couples.”

IRS GRANTS TAX EXEMPTIONS

Washington, D.C.—Until recently the policy of the Internal Revenue Service was to deny tax exemption for donations to gay charitable organizations unless the organization stated in its literature that homosexuality is a “sickness, disturbance, or diseased pathology.” As a result of two years of lobbying on the part of the ACLU, NGTF, and tax attorney Stanley Weithorne on behalf of the Howard Brown Memorial Fund (Fund for Human Dignity, Inc.), the IRS has announced that donations to the Fund are tax-exempt.

In a closely related decision, Lambda Services, Inc., of Denver, which was previously denied a 501 (c)(3) exemption by the IRS, has

RIPOFF WANTED

Milwaukee, Wi.—Gay groups and individuals should be on the lookout for one Don L. McDaniel who is wanted by the Milwaukee police on theft and forgery charges.

About September 1 McDaniel arrived in Milwaukee, supposedly from Seattle, and went to Gay Peoples Union seeking aid. He claimed to be without funds and to be recovering from serious cancer surgery. He asked for a place to stay and medical attention.

A GPU counselor took McDaniel into his home and began to work with various agencies on his behalf. Two weeks later, on September 17-18, the counselor went away for the weekend and returned to find his apartment stripped of about \$4,000 worth of art work and antiques. During the two week period, McDaniel had also forged checks and used the counselor’s credit card.

McDaniel is described as being 39 years old, 6’, 3” tall, thin, weighing about 185. He is well dressed, has dark hair with a receding hairline and false teeth. Any person with knowledge of the whereabouts of Don L. McDaniel should either call the Milwaukee police or call GPU NEWS, collect, at (414) 276-0612.

also received a favorable decision in its re-application. The way, therefore, seems clear for other qualified gay organizations to apply for 501 (c)(3) status.

These decisions do not affect non-profit gay organizations, which have been traditionally exempt from paying taxes on their own income. The new rulings affect the tax-deductible status of donations made by individuals to such organizations. Moreover, legislative lobbying efforts (whether for gay or any other causes) constitute grounds for disallowing the 501(c)(3) status. Organizations considering applying for 501 (c)(3) status are advised to consult a tax attorney.

M.H.R.A. HOLDS FUND RAISERS

Milwaukee, Wi.—The Milwaukee Human Rights Alliance (MHRA) held four fund raisers in September to benefit the Patrick Batt Legal Defense Fund. While totals were not complete at press time, the following figures have been provided.

The corn roast and art show at the **Wreck Room** (Sept. 5) raised \$1,150. Wanda Lust appeared at a benefit at the **Circus Disco** (Sept. 18) which raised \$418. Production numbers from the off-Broadway show "Let My People Come" accompanied a fund raiser held at the **Manhole** in

Green Bay (Sept. 25), which raised \$408. Figures were not available at press time for the New Years Eve Night held at the **Gold Coast** in Chicago on Sept. 29.

A gala extravaganza, "Review '77" will be held on Oct. 9 at the **On Broadway Show Lounge**. Donation for the show (2 ½ hours) is \$3.50 in advance or \$4.00 at the door. Featured will be surprise entertainment new to the Milwaukee area.

Lion's share of the monies raised will go to the law firm of Walther & Halling to defray legal costs present-

ly totaling \$4,000. A representative of MHRA said that local gay support of their efforts will be crucial in assuring success of the case, which would add to the increasing body of laws of concern to all gay persons. Strict accounting measures for the fund have been instituted to assure fiscal responsibility.

"Go to Bat for Batt" t-shirts are available locally for \$5.00 donation. Potential contributors may contact the fund by writing: MHRA, Box 92872, Milwaukee, Wi. 53202.

GAY BOYCOTT TOPPLES COORS BEER

California—Adolph Coors Co., which has dominated the beer market in California for many years, has lost its Number One position to Anheuser-Busch. The loss of sales has been attributed by representatives of the Company to the gay boycott in California. Figures released by the U.S. Brewers Association indicate that during the quarter ending in June Coors sold 29.1% of the beer in California, while Anheuser-Busch increased to 31.1% of the market. Coors' loss is expected to continue, and was hailed by union leaders, gay activists, and women's organizations as a demonstration of the effectiveness of their joint efforts for the boycott.

In addition to its anti-union activities, Coors has been under fire for alleged support of right-wing organizations and fundamentalist groups engaged in anti-gay campaigns. The Company, which is the fifth largest brewer in the United States, has taken full-page ads in gay papers such as **The Advocate** and **Pacific Coast Times** in order to deny the allegations. **The Advocate** was considering negotiations with Coors for advertising, but is now proceeding cautiously because of a series of critical articles written by George Menden-

hall which were published in the **Bay Area Reporter**. This continuing series has been devoted both to Coors' advertising campaign, and to the political work of Joseph Coors, its president.

A survey made by the **Bay Area Reporter** of the bars in the area indicates that Coors' beer is now served in only one bar there. Coors officials are working feverishly throughout the state to get the boycott lifted. In the first article of his series, Mendenhall suggested that, if the Company wished to show its sincerity, instead of placing ads denying discrimination it should donate \$50,000 to the National Gay Task Force or to other gay organizations combatting Bryant's campaign. Though this sum is a fraction of the money expended to date by Coors in its counter-campaign, no response to the suggestion has been issued by the Company.

Also taking credit for the Coors' slippage was Allan Baird, president of Teamsters Local 921 and state chairperson of the union boycott. Baird said: "If anyone deserves credit for what has happened to Coors, it should be the poor people, union members, and the gay community." Union members are also continuing

their strike against one of the Coors' breweries.

Meanwhile, because of alleged anti-gay and anti-ERA activities of the Coors management in Colorado, gay and feminist groups based in Houston, Texas, have joined a national boycott of Coors beer. Resolutions for both the national and the local boycotts were enthusiastically endorsed by the National Gay Leadership Conference meeting in Denver at the end of August. Many of the Coors branches require prospective employees to sign statements in their contracts stating that they have never engaged in "deviant sexual activities."

In September, the Texas Women's Political Caucus adopted a resolution calling for a boycott also. The resolution cites alleged contributions by Joseph Coors (\$130,000) to the Heritage Foundation, one of whose principal platforms is that of opposing the ERA. Coors spokesperson Robert Russo denied that contributions have been made by Coors' Company to either anti-gay or anti-ERA groups. When asked whether Joseph Coors himself may have made the contributions, Russo quipped that this was "a personal matter."

A.B.A. TABLED GAY RESOLUTION

Chicago, IL—Topics introduced for discussion at the annual meeting of the **American Bar Association**, held in August, included gay rights and media coverage, ERA, and child pornography. The following resolution was introduced by E. Carrington Boggan, a New York lawyer and open gay: "Resolved that the American Bar Association deplors discrimination against homosexuals in employment, housing, and public accommodations and urges the enactment of legislation prohibiting such discrimination at Federal, State, and local levels."

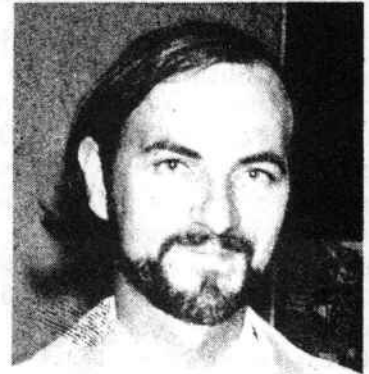
The resolution was approved by the Resolutions Committee, which is customarily more conservative than the ABA's House of Delegates. By a two-thirds majority, however, the ABA assembly voted to table the resolution, thus precluding the possibility of its approval by the House of Delegates this year.

Charles "Chuck" Whitman, a law student and free-lance photographer who is a member of Chicago's gay community, was in attendance at many of the convention's panels and activities. In an exclusive interview with Chicago's GC NEWS, Whitman indicated that, though the resolution had been tabled for one year, the fact that it had received a place before the ABA assembly was quite significant. The tone of the ABA convention was also somewhat less serene or stodgy than that of previous conventions, and even the panel discussion on obscenity and pornography was interspersed with humorous notes.

The debate on gay rights offered as pro-gay spokespersons authors Patricia Nell Warren, Dave Kopay, and Attorney E. Carrington Boggan. These were pitted against Attorney Robert Brake, an official spokesperson for the court-enjoined Save Our Children, Inc., and State Senator

John Briggs of California, who is also a gubernatorial hopeful. Briggs was the author of legislation introduced in California to bar gays from teaching in public schools, a proposal subsequently defeated by the California Senate.

Brake spoke also in defense of Anita Bryant's anti-gay campaign in Dade County, and also proclaimed himself as the originator of the campaign, and as the originator of the idea to hire Ms. Bryant as its spokesperson. Brake's anti-gay remarks triggered several atypical emotional outbursts from Kopay, who retorted with "Bullshit" on several occasions and subsequently issued an apology.



CHUCK WHITMAN

The convention issued no resolutions either on gay rights or on the other controversial topics taken up for discussion. Only on the issue of child pornography was there a general agreement in opposition.

ANTI-BRYANT GROUP FORMED

Washington, D.C.—**Dialog for Human Rights**, an ad hoc coalition formed for the purpose of combatting the effects of Anita Bryant's Save Our Children crusade, has been established through the collaboration of women's and gay organizations in Washington. DHR's first project is a two-month "defense preparedness program" in response to Bryant's victory in Miami.

Washington's gay community leaders believe that a Miami-style referendum is a likelihood in Washington also. Even if the campaign for such a referendum should not eventuate, DHR is committed to opposing the strong anti-gay sentiments which have resulted both in Congress and in the city government as a result of the Miami defeat. The coalition will sponsor both public education projects and special programs devoted to political planning.

Cade Ware, the project's paid coordinator, believes that Bryant's Florida victory constitutes a serious threat to all people in the District of Columbia. "The Save Our Children Organization is only a part of

the general growth of New Right repressiveness and group hatred in our country. After the gays, who's next?"

Sponsoring organizations for DHR include the **Gay Activists Alliance**, **National Organization for Women**, and the **Gertrude Stein Democratic Club**. Office space, donated by Lambda Rising, a gay community bookstore, is at 1724 20th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009. DHR may also be reached by telephone at 232-3915. DHR is primarily staffed with volunteer workers, and solicits ideas, suggestions, and assistance from all interested persons.

Final project decisions are made by a liaison committee of representatives from those sponsoring organizations which are funding DHR. Projects currently in the planning stages include media outreach, community education, political planning, the preparation of campaign materials, and lining up support from influential nongays. A major fund-raising campaign is to have its inception in October.

FEEDBACK

To the Editor:

The article by Donna Martin mentioning my novel, **Something You Do in the Dark**, as one that left readers with the impression that male homosexuals are "lonely, harassed, and body-obsessed," prompted me to write an essay in response. It's called, "Do We Need a Wholesome Gay Literature?," and **Blueboy** magazine just accepted it—for next December or January. It's hard-hitting and says that Ms. Martin has ignored my **Tim McPick** and must read my forthcoming collection of stories from Leland Mellot Books, **The Revolt of the Perverts**. Both of these give different impressions. However, the bulk of the article concerns a writer's defense of unpleasant reality and an argument against the new puritanism. I don't want gays to become "respectable," and literature that's "respectable," is boring. (Actually I'm glad for the chance to answer the GPU NEWS article—and get paid for doing so!) You've been one of the nicest, most reliable publications I've worked with and I respect you.

Thanks,
Daniel Curzon
San Francisco, Ca.

To GPU NEWS:

Please forgive me for waiting so long to renew my subscription; you can see by the date on the money order that I was renewing right away, but I couldn't send it in, for I had something to say, and I'm just now getting around to it. I just wanted you to know that I enjoy your quality publication, and could not survive without your **HERE AND THERE** column. It keeps me informed on who's who in the world, and if you will, what's what. So keep it up. I like the cartoons you publish also. I'm writing the Florida Citrus Commission, and in so doing am enclosing the caricature you did of Anita Bryant at her orange juice stand.

Yours truly,
David Kinard El Dorado, Ak.

Dear GPU NEWS:

The letter from the bisexual couple in your last issue encouraged me to write. It's good to know there are others of us. While it is easier for us to pass unnoticed than it is for a gay couple, we feel just as strongly about gay rights. To support the struggle

for enlightenment, accept my order for both the posters you advertised in the last issue. It is good to see gay oriented artwork that is not pornographic; but that is what I would expect in a quality paper.

J. P.
Omaha, Nb.



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EDITORIAL

Because of its strong commitment to the literary, cultural, and educational facets of gay liberation, GPU NEWS devotes a substantial portion of each monthly issue to reviews of books on a wide array of topics of interest to gays. With this, our seventh anniversary issue, we are especially pleased to offer the overview article by Peter Pehrson. No matter how hard we try, there are always books which we shall have overlooked for review; and, since our regular reviews make every effort to concentrate on the contents of books reviewed, they do not generally provide an insider's picture of the world of authors and publishers. In providing much of this missing detail, Pehrson's study is a welcome change of format; and we hope to offer similar accounts on an irregular basis henceforth. Future issues will also carry occasional news articles on publishers' plans for forthcoming series of gay-oriented publications.

The move of a number of "best-seller" publishers into the gay market, both through reissue of heretofore unavailable classics and the publication of works by new gay authors, provides eloquent testimonial to the health of the gay movement. The successful marketing of such works to a mass audience documents the presence of gays as an economic force in the marketplace; and economics is ultimately a branch of politics.

Of course we are well aware that, with the continually increasing costs of hardcover first editions, budgetary considerations alone will force many readers to be selective in acquiring books for their own personal libraries. Many such editions are subsequently re-released in less expensive paperback format; and, where this is the case, GPU NEWS will use its Here and There columns to alert readers of such a reissue of a book reviewed earlier by us in its first edition. In addition to its testimonial to the market strength of the gay community, the world of gay books fulfills two other primary goals of gay liberation: the education of nongays through accessibility of gay materials, and our own growth of gay consciousness.

Readers of this anniversary issue may also notice the advance announcement of the 1978 Gay Engagement Calendar. Readers response to the 1977 Calendar was overwhelmingly favorable. The 1978 edition will be in print within a few weeks, and will also be reviewed in an upcoming issue of GPU NEWS. We think that the Calendar is a tasteful and subdued way of witnessing the beauty of gayness.

Lastly, a sad note. Many subscribers have written to us in the past weeks of the very late arrival of the September issue. While we are making every effort to improve subscription fulfillments, we must plead no-fault in this case. The issue was in the mail on the second day of the month. While we knew that the holiday weekend might cause some delays in the postal

system, their enormity was unforeseen. The Editor lives only one mile from the Central Post Office (where we deliver our subscription mailings), and it took his issue nine days to travel that mile; while at least some subscribers in New Jersey received theirs in only three days. The ways of the postal system are indeed beyond the ken of us mere mortals. Do continue to let us know of late receptions—we don't promise dramatic improvements, but we do promise to try. Our own nonprofit status places some inherent limitations on what we can do and how fast; and, of course, the inner workings of the postal system are beyond our control.

As was noted in earlier issues of our sixth year, we have placed a temporary halt on our growth in size. The coming months will see qualitative improvements and various changes in format, however; and many of these will have arisen out of the suggestions of readers. To the many readers, contributors, and supporters who have been with us throughout many of the past six years, our thanks; and, to those of you who join us in the inception of our seventh year, our assurance that we'll make every effort to merit your support throughout the months and years ahead.

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THE POLITICS OF PATIENCE

by lee goodman

If everyone were clothed with integrity, if every heart were just, frank, kindly, the other virtues would be well-nigh useless, since their chief purpose is to make us bear with patience the injustice of our fellows.

— Moliere—*Le Misanthrope*, Act V, Scene I

In recent decades the idea of alienation and estrangement of persons from society has emerged as a dominant concept of contemporary social thought. While interpretations and refinements of the concept of social alienation may vary from thinker to thinker, its central core is that of the unresponsiveness of the world to the individual. In a world which subjects one to forces and values which s/he neither comprehends nor controls, alienation is not only a feeling of resentment and disaffection, but also an expression of the very conditions which subject the person to those forces.

Nowhere is the sense of alienation more manifest than in the contemporary political arena. During a recent television panel in which several state senators participated, I was generally struck by the fact that the intellectual and social world in which the participants moved was almost totally different from the world and preoccupations in which most of us live and breathe today. Just as the low esteem in which politicians are generally held today is indicative of the alienation of public opinion from the political realm, so the ever-increasing incidence of white-collar crime evidences the irrelevance of the order of law to the preoccupations and values of a large segment (possibly even a majority) of citizens.

Part of the problem, of course, may be properly laid at the feet of those very politicians whose credibility is held more in contempt than in disbelief. In no few cases the motives, values, and attitudes with which they operate are those of a social order which does

not now exist, if it ever did. The so-called "generation gap" has, in short, become a credibility gap. Another part of the problem, however, is due to the difficulties in squaring the norms and structure of democratic polity with the complexities and technologies of mass society.

Three models of political responsibility are present within classical democratic theory, and each appears to be faltering within contemporary society for a variety of reasons. Under the partisan model, political representatives are responsible for upholding the principles of a political party. This model is at least in part a failure because of the ambiguity of party principles, as well as the generally low esteem in which political parties are held these days. Under the classical trustee model, the elected official is to vote neither his party nor his constituency, but rather his/her own informed judgement, based perhaps upon information not accessible or digestible to the general public. This is the concept of the political representative as "specialist." It has its birth perhaps in Plato's **Republic**, but it has been robbed of most of its plausibility by the advance of science and technology. Few politicians today can lay claim to be specialists in much of anything; so that more and more of the technical decisions must be made by those specialists who, outside the political arena, are not immediately subject to electoral control. This situation of external and unseen controllers has been much emphasized (perhaps overemphasized) in the literature of alienation arising out of the American counterculture.

And finally there is the delegate model, wherein political responsibility devolves upon the voting of one's constituents' opinions. This is, of course, the model to which most politicians today give lip service; and it is, curiously enough, the one least favored by the Founding Fathers in writing the Constitution (the purpose of the electoral college being that of short-circuiting constituency voting). The delegate model thrives best, if one wants it to thrive, in a parliamentary system, wherein governments and politicians are subject to immediate constituency assessment.

There are other difficulties which plague the delegate model, not the least of which is the massiveness and general pluralism of American society. Where one is elected by a group of several hundred persons, the possibility of voting a constituent viewpoint is in principle feasible. Where the constituency reaches from tens to hundreds of thousands, the very intelligibility of the concept of constituency voting becomes dubious on two grounds at least: 1) it is doubtful that a majority of a constituency will have a uniform opinion on any point whatsoever; and 2) even if there were a majority position, finding out what it is becomes both difficult and costly. Politicians these days are wont to speak of "public opinion" in dulcet and respectful tones; but this public opinion is neither well-defined, uniform, or specific.

The concept of public opinion represents little less than the dying spectre of constituency. Information flow, like freedom of speech, is a valued civil liberty; but, like all civil liberties in mass society, its effective exercise is often a function of economic and social factors. One may speak freely in an empty room, but effective communication of beliefs and values is determined by access to the mass media, which in turn is partially determined by availability of economic resources. From a more cynical viewpoint, one may say that the most incarnate of public opinions is often that of a vocal minority well-endowed with money and access to the media. Money can buy airtime and advertising space, and these in turn can buy almost any election. Richard Nixon knew it well, and more recently Ms. Bryant has reinforced the lesson.

The above remarks are not proffered by a radical anarchist bent on the dissolution of the American system, nor by an absolute pessimist fully convinced of the system's unworkability; for the above difficulties in our political system, like the presence of social alienation therein, are matters of degree. The system has failed on many points, but it has also worked on many others. Minorities have made their views and needs known, the political order has responded to these at least in part, and public opinion is not always determined by economic factors. Where the system has worked (and worked well), it has done so precisely

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to the extent that constituencies, minorities, and pressure groups have acted with full and deliberated cognizance of the limitations and tensions which are internal to the political order. Good intentions, while often necessary, have seldom been sufficient; calculation, understanding, and rational assessment of means, ends, and costs are the payoff factors. Alienation can be either a curse or a blessing. It is a curse when it swamps the collective consciousness with feelings of fatalism and total ineffectiveness in the face of the political process and the social order. It is a blessing when, by better understanding the causes and conditions of alienation, we are enabled thereby to subject these to a modicum of rational control and manipulation.

In many gay publications which appeared at the end of 1976, the year 1977 was heralded as the "year of the gay." Both in its news coverage and in its entertainment (television dramas), the media seemed, if not wholly sympathetic to the problems and the needs of gay persons, at least open to the possibility of dialogue; and many laws were pending at both state and local levels which promised to offer some legislative remedy to legitimate needs and problems. Seven months through the year, earlier predictions have been if not falsified, at least confronted with the cold and often unpleasant facade of political and social realities. Earlier media presentations did not turn out to be an overture to total openness and responsibility, legislative packages both nationally and locally (e.g., here in

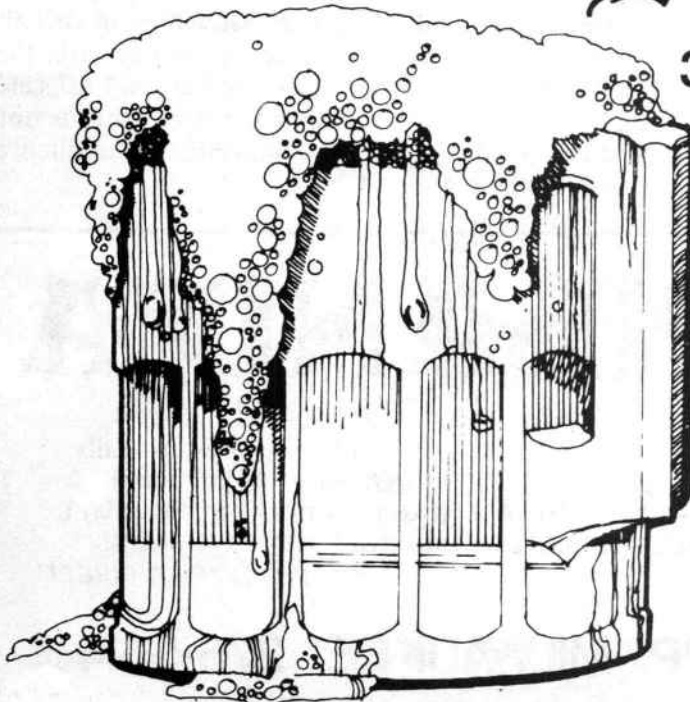
Wisconsin) have met with some defeats and many stalemates, and Ms. Bryant and her fundamentalist crusaders have occasioned the threat of reaction and social regress.

Like the earlier assessment of the political system, the bleak aspects of the preceding paragraph are not intended to counsel nihilism, retreat, or abject pessimism. In the face of harsh realities, realism is the counsel of prudence. It is, once again, of primary importance to see the problems and to understand them fully. Ms. Bryant is a good example of the dictum that, in the forging of the image of public opinion to which the nature of our political system compels that the politician pay heed, money talks. The mass murders in California, coupled with the continually chanted litany that the murderers are gay, constitute one more example of the manner in which the media, whether by malice or simple stupidity, may create the very public opinion to which they claim to be respondents.

One negative effect of the recent setbacks has been the diffusion and dilution of the plans and projects of gay-oriented organizations and pressure groups. Where the waters of public opinion are calm and the political atmosphere is not wholly negative, gay organizations have the opportunity to be the master of their plans. Assessment, discussion, long-term direction, and calm deliberation can substantially contribute to programs which are well put together and thoughtfully initiated. Where public opinion is negative, gay organizations are placed often into the unenviable position of having

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to react to the unforeseen, cope with the unpredictable and act without time for deliberation or informed input. The effects of this passivity to the social situation are everywhere manifest within the gay movement.

The trick, as always, is to understand the dynamics of the situation and to be able to respond thereto in a reasoned and calculating fashion. If the analysis of these dynamics which opened this article is correct, or at least not substantially erroneous, then three reasonable conclusions would appear to follow with respect to gay organizations and their programs in the months ahead.

First, if the responsiveness of politicians and legislators is in part determined by the complex vagaries of public opinion, gay organizations might be well-advised generally to commit less energies to legislative reform in the months ahead. This cannot be a hard-and-fast recipe, since there are probably many areas (states, counties, municipalities) where public opinion is either less decisive in the political process or less negative. The game of legislative reform, however, is one where winner takes all, and it is a costly game, in terms of both energy and economic resources. In situations where the prospect of success is seriously diminished, commitment of resources should also be diminished. Consolidation of existing legislative reforms may often provide a greater payoff at a smaller price than the attempt to implement or introduce new programs at once.

Secondly, since changes of public opinion are causally related to changes in the prospective successes or failures of legislative programs, time and energy might be expended more prudently by attacking the disease instead of its symptoms. This means that one major role of gay organizations might be that of education and information, both at local and national levels. Money may talk, and arguments may only reach the widest public through access to the mass media; but bad arguments, however loudly proclaimed, may often be dissolved faster and more quickly by quiet counterexamples than by loud counterarguments. Hypocrisy

and prejudice are nurtured best in the soil of ignorance and unfamiliarity. In those areas where gay organizations provide positive examples of thoughtful programs, public opinion is less apt to be swayed by the winds of misinformation and deceit.

Thirdly, no gay group or organization can afford to remain wholly at the mercy of the unforeseen. If every change or setback in the political or social climate entails the complete reorganization of priorities and programs in reaction to the change, tremendous reserves of resources within the gay community will thereby be put to poor and ineffective use; and these resources of time, money, and talent are painfully finite. Success often means not doing something worthwhile, not biting off more than one can chew, taking a careful look at prospective gains in the light of anticipated costs, being a hardnosed realist in the face of well-intentioned but ineffective idealism. Careful husbandry of resources requires cost-analysis and foresight. Impact assessment is a necessary component of such analysis; for, within a context of limited resources commitment to one project or program always means that other possible programs must be set aside.

Gay persons and organizations are right to feel alienated from the political and social community, but they are not particularly distinctive in this; for the alienation spreads far beyond the confines of the gay community to virtually all other persons and groups within our society. Politically or social nihilism may often explain inactivity and lack of initiative, but they cannot excuse or justify it because such nihilism is itself without excuse or justification. The argument that the risks of failure justify inaction parallels the claim that, since many crimes go undetected, we don't need police: both arguments are silly. If the political climate is not conducive to the launching of certain projects, other projects in other arenas may offer the promise of success. Where costs are high and risks are great, the admonition to wait for better times is not the invitation to do nothing, but rather the challenge to do something else.



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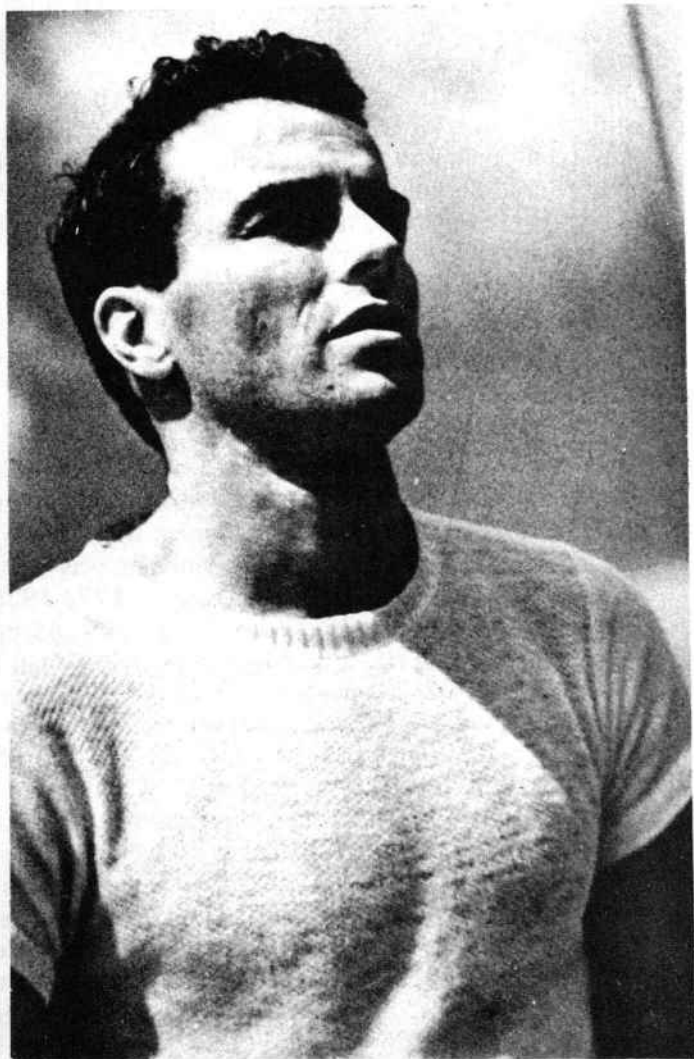
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MONTGOMERY CLIFT

Saturday Review columnist Carll Tucker writes that "homosexuals should have the rights guaranteed them by the Bill of Rights," but objects when gays want these rights legislated at various local, county and state levels. "These rights exist," Tucker says, "if they are denied, then it is up to the courts to see that they are enforced." But we know that relying on the courts is a little like waiting for the Pope to perform sodomy with his acolytes before the College of Cardinals.

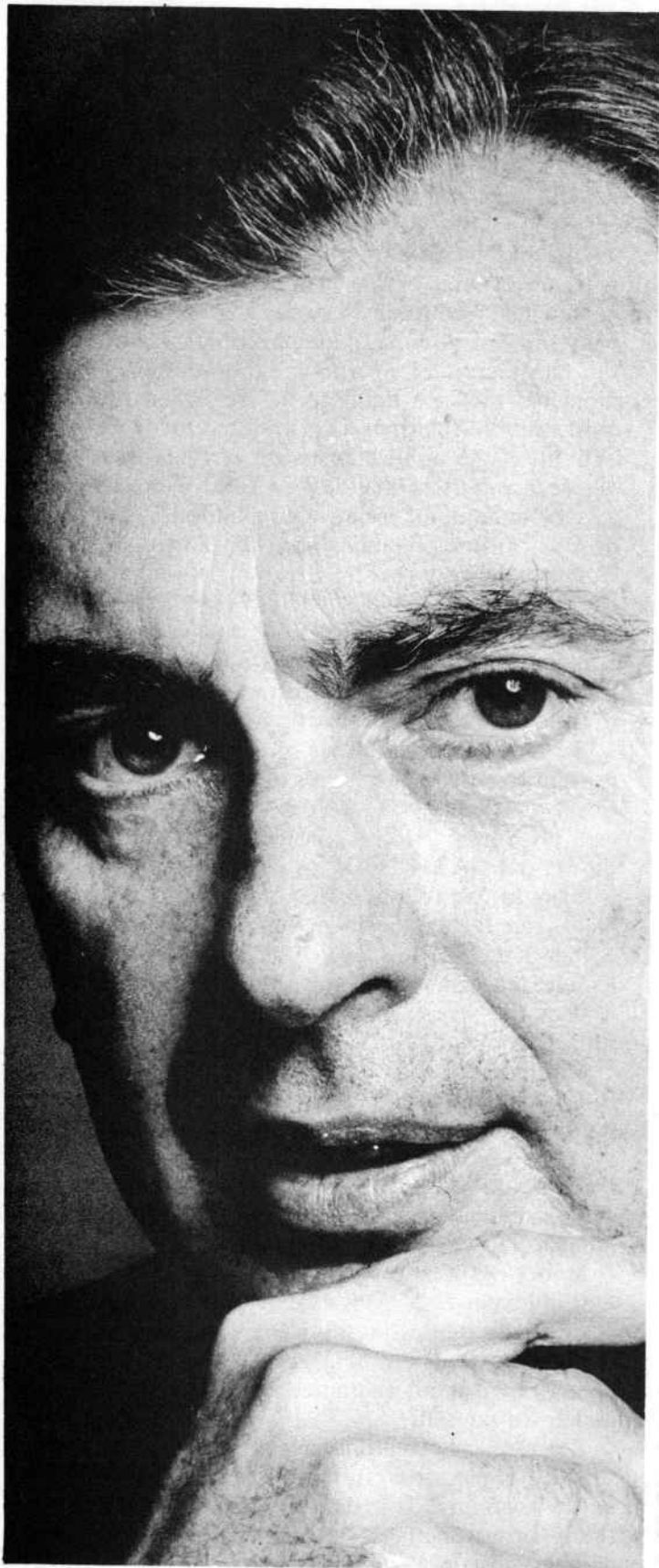
Informal "courts," however, are appearing in the form of book and magazine publishers anxious to ride the latest crest of profits and pop culture. For the moment, they are doing us a favor when they act as ersatz public relations firms. (One favor we can do without is the publishing house of Fleming H. Revell whose recent titles include **The Total Woman** and who gave us in September **Save Our Children: The Survival of Our Nation's Families and The Threat of Militant Homosexuality** by Anita Bryant.) Revell's address is Old Tappan, New Jersey, 07675 if you want to drop them a line. . . . Our Sunday Visitor (sic) presented in September **Counseling The Homosexual** by John Cavanaugh. This apparently tame book is actually a re-issue of the 1966 **Counseling The Invert**. . . .

We are the commodities of the moment. It is important to observe the trends in publishing on the East Coast, particularly New York, the nation's publishing capitol. **New York** magazine recently used for cover art the words GAY CLOUT over a photo of a man and woman at breakfast. The man's one wrist arched madly on the table while the free hand smashed an orange half into the face of an Anita look alike. . . . **Esquire** magazine has an "all gay issue" planned for the first of the year. . . . Onward to the darker side of the subject at hand.

Montgomery Clift, Montgomery Clift: Ah, Monty! But what can you really say about a hebephrenic schizophrenic? It is generally thought crass to ridicule the defenseless dead. In the case of Montgomery Clift, I don't think this is so. He conducted his life crassly and crudely if we are to believe biographer Robert LaGuardia. And worse, Clift revelled in it.

Monty (Arbor House, 1977, 304 pp., hdbk, illustrated, indexed, \$12.95) is a story that will be found extraordinarily depressing by a lot of readers. It is perfectly true that stunning good looks and enormous acting talent is no guarantee against the troubles one makes for oneself.

Biographer LaGuardia carefully outlines the facts of Clift's life in a very refreshing way. He does not begin at the beginning. It is such a relief not to be led down the pointless path of maternal and paternal grandparents, obscure third cousins or the details of the obnoxiously cute three year old great-great-grandfather on the boat over. While LaGuardia presents the facts and lets the reader draw conclusions, it is a loaded pro-



GORE VIDAL

photo by Francesco Scavullo

cedure. We already know the end to this thriller. We know who did it. When LaGuardia presents Clift's fancy, affected, doting Momma and her painful cultivation of a young gentleman with refined, refined manners, we are as much told to sit back and watch the accidents and misery develop. They do. "The pages which follow recount the journey of an 'intellectual' movie star into darkness. Some people unfamiliar with the man of the evolution of his extraordinary psyche would try to reduce his strange progress into clinical terms. Hebephrenic schizophrenia. Oedipal breakdown. Death wish. These are not necessarily incorrect terms, to the degree that they are helpful they are used in this biography."

Self-destruction is not an easily manageable passion. Nor is it easily described. Comment after comment describes Clift by his friends: "I never felt that Monty was disturbed about the homosexuality itself. He wasn't happy about it, but I think it was just the fact of having to pretend to make people think he was someone he wasn't; that bothered him. You see, Monty was an extremely moral person and he had a great sense of ethics. He hated dishonesty of any kind," comes from an old acting friend.

Writer Bob Thom says, "Monty drank because he couldn't grow up. He had to keep himself that dazzling adolescent, who you did want to help protect and who you did feel was vulnerable and open to be rendered in these terrible ways. He had to drink because he couldn't let knowledge accumulate."

There are no lessons here. Montgomery Clift's story is likely being played out right this minute somewhere. With Monty Clift, the subject was a movie star so we all noticed it a little more.

Anyone who writes a bestseller at the age of 19 (**Williwaw**) cannot expect to be left alone even for a second. In Gore Vidal's case, it has been the other way around. He has not left us alone since he was 19. In **Matters of Fact and Fiction (Essays 1973-1976)**, (Random House, New York, 1977, \$10.00, 285 pp., hdbk.), Vidal's fourth collection, he is no less than he is expected to be—a perfect example of deportment, scholastic gymnastics and wicked entertainment. Kindness, thankfully, never did enter into the matter. This is Vidal remembering Truman Capote: "Capote would keep us entranced with mischievous fantasies about the great, while Tennessee (Williams) and I were staying at the Hotel de Universite in Paris in 1948. Apparently the very sight of him was enough to cause lifelong heterosexual men to tumble out of their unsuspected closets. When Capote refused to surrender his virtue to the drunken Errol Flynn, 'Errol threw all my suitcases out of the window of the Beverly Wilshire Hotel!' I should note here that the young Capote was no less attractive in his person than he is today."

When Vidal tells us that his name means "he who has seen pain" in Russian, it almost becomes too much but then we remember that this is Vidal and this is what we have, after all, asked for.

Another example of Vidal at his best: "Perhaps each girl at birth might be given the right to have one child with the understanding that if she decided to skip the hard work of motherhood she could pass that permission on to a woman who wanted two or three or four children. For those who gasp and say that this is interfering with man's most sacred right to add as many replicas of himself as he likes to the world, let me point out that society does not let you have more than one husband or wife at a time, a restriction which I have heard no conservative complain of, even though any Moslem would find it chilling and Mrs. Richard Burton (sic) would find it square." I ask you, isn't this man as much a national treasure as the Green Bay Packers or Presidential widows?

Vidal has done his gay lib homework this time round. In the "Matters of Fiction" section of the book, which is devoted to critical essays on literature and writing, he consistently draws blood at overtly heterosexual novelists and heterosexual academes. Points, though untotaled, for our side. Vidal will be featured as subject in **The Gay Sunshine Interview Anthology** edited by Winston Leyland coming from Gay Sunshine Press in the latter part of this year.

An interesting thing is occurring in lesbian literature. It is beginning to exist. Quarte Books, distributed by Horizon House, offered in September **We're Here: Conversations with Lesbian Women**, Moon Books, distributed by Random House, put into print **The New Lesbians. . . The Joy of Lesbian Sex: A Tender and Liberated Guide to the Pleasures and Problems of a Lesbian Lifestyle** in October from Crown Publishers, \$12.95. It has a male companion, **The Joy of Gay Sex**, etc. (Maybe we can all find out what we've been doing wrong and right and the straights can find out what they're missing. I will put all this happiness and elation next to **The Joy of Cooking** and not too far away from **The Joy of German Noun Declensions. . .**) November will bring **Our Right to Love: A Lesbian Resource Book** by National Gay Task Force staffer Ginny Vida. Publishers Prentice-Hall say the book will provide every kind of information of interest to lesbians from health services to starting an activist organization.

One of the country's gay white knights has done it again. Dr. Ralph Blair's 48 page pamphlet, "Holier-Than-Thou-Hocus-Pocus & Homosexuality" (HCCC, Inc., 30 East 60th St., New York, NY 10022, \$2.00) discusses gayness from an evangelical Christian view. Although I am proud to count myself among those who seed the fields of atheism, only a redneck could fail to see what Blair accomplishes when he takes on Bible-belting with Anita B. However, as some Christians will,





Photos taken by Monty's lover Rick on beaches and boats in Maine and Long Island.

Dr. Blair seems to insist that only monogamous relationships are favored in God's eyes. That Christianity has been a cause of unspeakable misery in the world is not at question. Dr. Blair, a practicing psychotherapist in New York, provides a great deal of comfort and grace in a place not known for those amenities. Perhaps next time he will keep moralizing distinct from logic.

The Last Word: Patricia Nell Warren, author of blockbusters *The Front Runner* and *The Fancy Dancer*, has a yet untitled third novel in the works for William Morrow and Co., this time with a lesbian focus. . . **A Family Matter: A Parent's Guide to Homosexuality** by Charles Silverstein (McGraw Hill, 1977, \$8.95) has received praise from authors Merle Miller and John Money among prestigious others. Says Miller, "If my parents had been able to read this fifty years ago, it would have saved them half a century of misery and it would have done the same for me." . . . "Women in Love" (United Artists, 1970, Ken Russell, director) screenwriter Larry Kramer will publish *Faggots* this coming Spring from Random House. Kramer calls *Faggots* a "gay Fear of Flying". . . Spring, a traditional publishing season, will also see **What Do You People Do: Sex Lives of Lesbians and Gay Men** from Summit Books compiled by those intrepid editors and compilers, Karla Jay and Allen Young. . . From Westminster Press next Spring, **Jonathan Loved David: Homosexuality in Biblical Times** by Old Testament scholar Thomas Horner. . . West Coast publication, **The Advocate**, will venture into commercial publishing with **The Advocate Book of Good Health For Gay People** by staff writer Randy Shilts in April or May. . . In the gay-as-art corner, Rizzoli will offer in November **L'Amour Bleu** by Michel and Cecile Beurdeley for \$50.00. Rizzoli calls this an "unusual art book with 290 illustrations, 40 in color." You can tell gays have become legitimate when we land on coffee tables. Does anyone know why what we do is called "The Blue Love?"

Some great bestsellers in the gay market have gone into paperback printings including **Tennessee Williams' Letters to Donald Windham 1940-1965** (Holt, Rinehart and Winston, October), **Christopher and His Kind** (Avon, November). This is a plus because it indicates public interest and the opportunity for that public to sample some of the many ways of being gay. . .

REVIEW

A Family Matter: A Parents' Guide to Homosexuality by Dr. Charles Silverstein, McGraw-Hill Book Co., pp. 214, \$8.95.

Reviewed by Wayne Jefferson

A bit of dry sociological truth is made sparky-vivid by this good new survival-manual. That's the fact that a given "social problem" is actually seen quite differently by differing interested parties—and that we'd better realize this if we're to communicate and cooperate. For example, America's "racial problem" is actually several problems. It isn't just that of anti-Black prejudice (as from the Blacks' point of view). It's also one of disturbance of cherished—if bigoted—values (from the Southern whites' viewpoint). It's further one of property values, of the image of America in foreign lands, and of civil rights—if you note the views of realtors and homeowners, of American diplomats, and of liberals, respectively.

Exactly so with "the" social problem of homosexuality. It is even an honest "problem" for the Anita Bryant types, sincerely—if erroneously—disconcerted as they are by the Abominable Gayman in their midst. Gays tend to see "the problem" as the grievous one of heterosexual oppression of the gay minority. So it is, of course. But, as psychologist Silverstein's book makes searingly clear—for those who didn't know—"the problem" for many heterosexuals, especially parents of gays, is the equally mordant one of homophobia rampant—including fears, guilt, blame, embarrassment, despair, and depression—when the issue surfaces like an extinct fish in the backyard swimming pool. And "the problem" for the whole family unit is yet different—homosexuality is a force threatening to neutron-bomb the household, leaving a building standing perhaps,

but scarring and deadening the relationships forever.

It need not be, of course, and **A Family Matter** is a badly-needed practical guidebook to prevent such quiet devastation occurring behind closed front doors daily.

After a quick introduction, half the book is case studies of the tales of four families—the Petersons, the Carltons, the Friedmans and the Brownes. A "revisited" chapter follows each story and formally analyzes the hidden family dynamics. The latter half of the book discusses "society, medicine, and homosexuality." And considering the unrelieved disasters possible with many therapies, that's well done. A chapter "The Parents of Gays Meeting" was a wise inclusion, considering the great numbers of parents who just won't be able to attend that organization soon.

The book sagely omits much material, such as the causes of homophobia, and all the various stereotypes versus facts about gays. All that can come later; what must come first are the two things the book does. For parents of gays, it is a talking-to, or rather with, to assist them in managing the Issue, a correspondence course in effect. And for both parties, it is a workshop on the central matter of how to keep "interpersonal communication" cleanly, maturely efficient when dealing with—does anyone know any more difficult issue for a family to face?

TONE'S NOT UPTIGHT

In all writing, the author's tone, or personal attitude toward it all, is a major part of his total message. Silverstein's voice here is neither absent nor incorrect. In how he approaches what he discusses, he offers parents a new role-model of relaxedness about the whole thing. Gay is okay for those who are gay—and all would do well to start from there. True, parents drag with them the net of society's fears/ignorances/myths on the topic. So what good can a "breathe-easier" attitude take here?

Because this will be the first time many heterosexuals will be up-close to the topic and breathing hard. Public gay panels, media work, lectures, and the like are vital for social change but can't prepare people for a where-they-live dealing with the topic at home. Silverstein is thus a good role-model in a situation where the only conventional response is too often the knee-jerk one of moral regurgitation ("Warped!"), self-crumbling ("Where Did We Fail?"), and apoplexy ("No Son of Mine...!"). The book is good talking therapy thus.

How does the book stack up against other writings on the topic of gay sheep in the straight sheepfold? Chapter 5 of George Weinberg's book **Society and the Healthy Homosexual** is not yet outdated. But **A Family Matter** does it all in one package. Advertisers are forever stamping the word "New!" on products. Anything "new" here? Yes: the book's star innovation is clearly to examine the varied reactions of the parents to their children's homosexuality, and then firmly to relate these responses to the existing psychodynamics of the particular families, the ongoing psychosexuality of the parents themselves. These factors influence whether parents react with a stroke, a smile, or something in between—and what happens next, too. In fact the very core of the book is talking turkey about unhealthy versus mature approaches to honesty, embarrassment, guilt(s), shamings, and the like. Read it to learn.

OTHER DANGERS

Then, too, the book is—as far as a male reviewer can tell, that is—satisfyingly feminist. Two of the four families concern gay women, not men, and what more could be fairer? Further, there's in effect an equally refreshing men's liberation perspective, sort of. The chapter "Masculinity and Homosexuality" clarifies how much homophobia is due to our essentially compulsive overvaluation of thoroughgoing, if not macho, "manhood," that empty suit of armor. It also shows how we screw-

Big enough to 'party-party,'
but small enough to do your own thing.

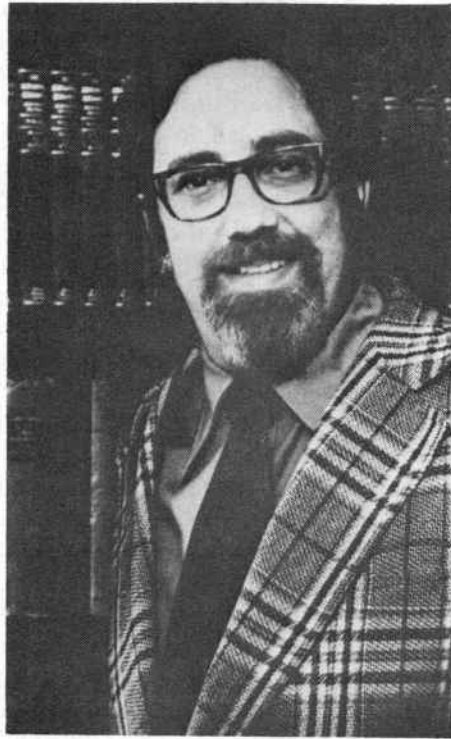


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ily confuse sexual orientation, gender-role, and self-identity and worth.

Beyond the central message that gay is okay, and to deal with this all parties need honesty as well as goodwill, gay oppression is noted. The discussion usefully exceeds the obvious, first-line facets of sissy-beatings, job firings, social ostracism, utterly-rotten self-image, and the like. Silverstein well cautions that therapy may be hazardous to your health, and this doesn't just include the crudities of hormonal or aversion therapy, either. He takes the radical but here creditable, position that much so-called sex therapy, including psychotherapy, has in fact been a form of social control. He draws crisp parallels between the punishment of masturbation ("unnatural self-pollution") in the last century and the treatment of homosexuality in this one. Further,

In the seventeenth century, they punished sexual non-conformism with



Charles Silverstein, Ph. D.

Photo Credit: Douglas Lavery

death; in the eighteenth with castration; in the nineteenth with asylums; and now in the twentieth we use psychotherapy or aversion therapy.

And all, not for the welfare of the patient, but to maintain and defend society's traditional sex-role values, male and female. Alternate therapies for today are noted, treatments which do not damage, "iatrogenically", more than they assist.

Clear it is too that not just cure attempts but also closetry can be dangerous. The repressed gay may gain something, but s/he exists in a psychological moratorium, a stop-time state in which no one may realize fully how much the ability

Otherwise the book validly scores the usual truths concerning gay children and their families. Some bittersweet basics:

1) Coming out to parents can be spiteful, but is usually a positive act of love and closeness. In any case it has no parallel in the experience of heterosexuals.



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2) But parents have their own coming-out to do, or rather coming-into the matter. They may then be more "alone" than their gay children now are, who anyway have peer-group support among their own gay friends.

3) Siblings, especially younger ones, may, or may not, take the news well. But in all cases it's the gay child and not the parents who should tell them.

4) "Talking about it" is one thing. A heavy later step is the entrance into the house of an actual flesh-and-blood lover—Jack and Jeff then, Sally and Sue. Guess who came to dinner, indeed.

5) Beware the "stillborn" coming out, the strained discussion after which the subject is simply never mentioned again. The formal coming out should be only the first step in integrating gayness.

6) And the whole process must go in easy stages. Parents must absorb the situation only at their own pace.

Here one can question—does Sil-

verstein maybe set up the scenario of the formal coming out conversation with the parents in too formal and stagey a way—a Production Number if you will? I recall, in the anthology **After You're Out**, a hilarious and helpful account of one person's gradual, or "naturalization," approach to her family. Her parents were solidly prepared for the explicit, bombshell, announcement by hints, clues, certainly attitude-statements which the child gradually establishes beforehand. This could prevent Ground Zero devastation later.

But mainly the book's a needed tract for the times. Get it into all public libraries possible. It may help heal some of the troubles we've seen. I recall a certain gay liberation meeting—"parents' night." The group heard one father there speak out to the effect that, well, he now, yes, accepted his son and his "condition" and loved his son, and—well, yes, accepted him. But the non-verbal part of the communication—his actual tone of voice, his manner of speaking, his facial gestures—told the

true, or the complete, story. Which was not one of hatred or disgust either; quite unwilling on his part was his sadness we saw, his continuing vexation, disappointment, despair underneath.

A **Family Matter** will do all that print can do to ease this aspect of "the social problem." The bottom line is—and this is really less naive than it is realistic—that after all, "Most of the time our fears create more trouble and worry than the reality of a situation." Even so. At least that father and son had talked, that father had attended; that's good. (At many Parents of Gays meetings, many parents attend once, then never more. That's sad.) What will happen in the future? That depends on the self-image and psychodynamics of every person (straight and gay) and each family—whether rigid, or flexible. The book's arsenal of communication-techniques cannot make people more mature, though it can admirably put them in touch. And then they all go on from there. Don't we all.

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REVIEW

Sex Link by Hy Freedman, M. Evans & Co., New York, 1977, \$8.95.

Reviewed by Lee C. Rice, Ph. D.

Every animal, from the ultra-microscopic virus to the 180 ton whale, enjoys an active sex life, free of hangups. Only one species has sex problems. Hy Freedman, author of **Supermarriage—Supersex**, is a freelance writer with some twenty years of experience in radio and television. He here turns his talents upon the task of illuminating the highly diverse, amazingly creative, and often bizarre mating rituals of the other sentient habitants of planet Earth. The opening chapters are devoted to the general theme of animal pluralism. For the author sexuality includes not just copulation, but sexual symbolisms, courtships, etc. If nature is the ultimate arbiter of what

is normal, then (as Freedman notes) she opts for total silence on this question.

The core of the book is devoted to various sexual institutions and the species which have adopted them. For example there is group sex (Callicebus monkeys, water snails, and mosquitoes), rape (minks, crocodiles, moth mites), sadomasochism (snails, clawed frogs, dysticids), nymphomania (lions, cockroaches, the stone grouse), sexual aids (the octopus, the dog, the dragonfly), courtship (ravens, geese, and turtles), death rites (eels, scorpions, sea urchins), population control (macaques, locusts, elephants), and various forms of family life (various primates, whales, bees, couvades, etc.). Homosexuality is not singled out for individual chapter treatment because of its omnipresence under this interpretation, but the homosexual and bisexual are everywhere, not to mention the transsexual and the transvestite.

Into all of this sweetness and light

a little darkness must fall. Freedman is an amateur doing free-lance biology; and, fortunately or unfortunately, most of the interpretations offered will not bear the scrutiny of more careful examination. Sociologists are constantly warning us of the dangers of reading our own sexual symbols and meaning into the behaviorally similar institutions of other societies; and, when we cross the line into other species, the cautions are tripled by the biologist. The oft quoted example of homosexual prowess, the sexually liberated rabbit, is probably more straight than gay. But he can only tell other females from male rabbits by mounting first and having a tentative go at it—maybe a good example of experimental method, but not gay lib by any means. So Freedman's book is probably more often wrong than right, but it's still a lot of fun. With a healthy dose of scientific scepticism, the book makes for imaginative and stimulating reading.

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STRAIGHTGAY MAN

No jokes you said;
 I still find myself laughing,
 Cynical humor I guess,
 Oh, I've waited long
 But the joke was
 I wasn't waiting for you.
 It seems at times I detected
 A straightness in your sigh;
 While this boy
 Rested on your thighs
 Sucking cock.

You said —
 "I'll never be passive."
 I said —
 "You need a good fuck!"

You watched my nightly performance
 But you never knew
 Just how bitter your semen had become.

BICOMPULSIONS

My arms only hold so tight
 The thrust — only so deep.
 In this moment
 We may truly touch
 But I will find it hard
 To remember you
 Much beyond my work.

Don't internalize the hurt —
 There's no one to blame.
 For you see
 I have a constant lover —
 One of raging compulsion
 Inside of my head;
 Another need.

My combined climax dwells
 In physical and spirit realms.
 As with men
 The extremes of the sensual;
 And by words
 Orgasmic, mental release.

EROS TRICK-ALL

No responsibility to truth;
 Sometimes.
 It depends on the reason
 Or the object of your design.
 Enduring all the Ego fetters
 The lace on lifelines —
 As candidates line the bar
 Caught in time.

Can you spare me your senses?
 Mine have grown reserved;
 One touch would be a take
 For the continuous action
 Which confirms our desire —
 For no more lovely a note to me
 Than the sigh of a lover
 Satisfied.

All the lilting young boys
 Moving with youth's sensual grace,
 Move me to the symphony
 Written into your face.
 Life to life — nothing redone;
 The inner caress of Eros
 The sigh with-in the passion;
 Leaving only the softest trace
 Of the driving of the arrow.

Moment to moment
 Renewed by the fires of time
 Leaving nothing undone —
 Nor to I
 The passion unsung.

ACORN

Since my refuge
 I've forgotten the taste
 Of long, moist summer nights;
 Male moves under sheets.
 Yang longing Yang;
 Those religious memories
 Are all I'm feeling now —
 They're almost all I need.
 A lover would be fine
 If he could see my intrinsic ways
 Cope with my moods
 Handle my problems;
 And my piles.
 But perhaps lovers
 Are only this poets' dream;
 Written embraces
 Cum verses
 Ejaculating pens.

CACTUS WIND

Outside, cactus wind
 Shifts sand
 While I masturbate
 Silently, alone.
 There's no image
 No fantasy
 Just the ache for release.

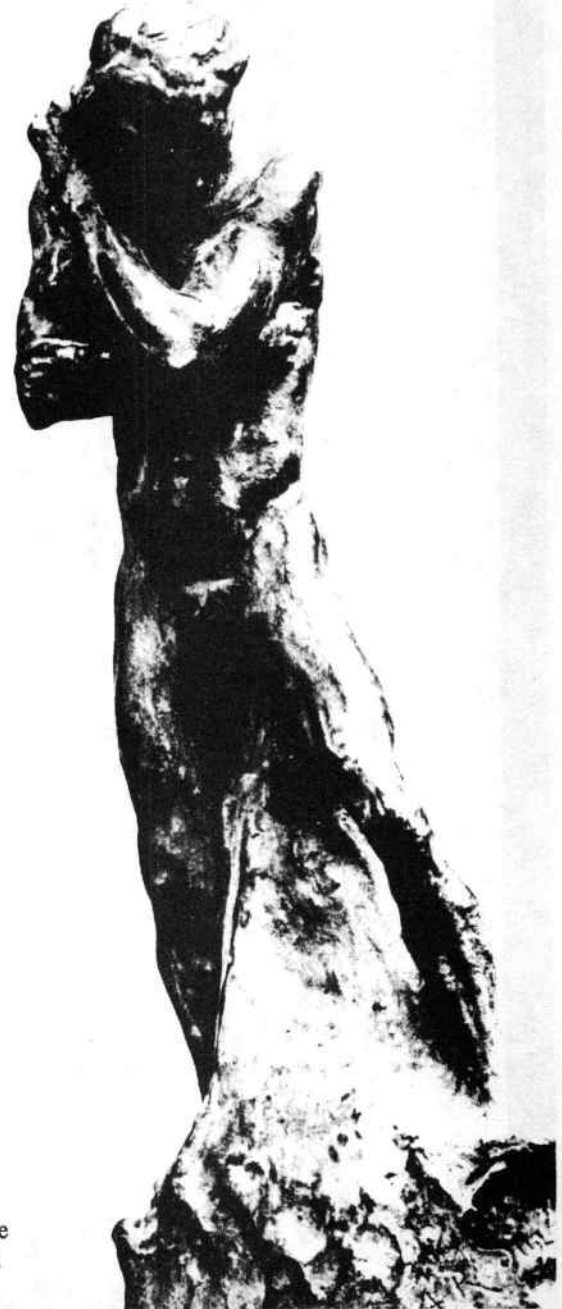
I've had no sex
 For months.
 No warm bodies
 No midnight touch.
 I sleep alone
 Body raw
 Yearning in rippled sand.

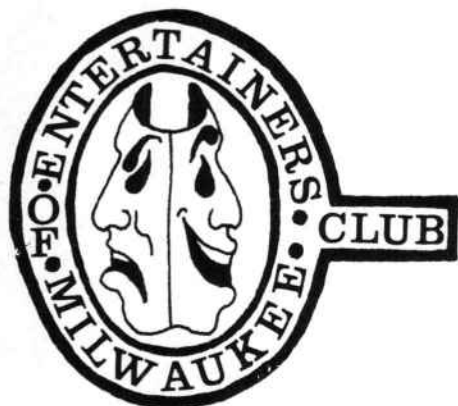
Desert moon glows;
 I lie
 Naked against hard rock
 Embracing dreams.
 Cactus wind blows
 Etching deep
 My desire on stone.

Poetry by Michael L. Perry

Michael L. Perry lives in Utah where he is working on a degree in Journalism and Graphic Arts. His poetry has appeared in The National Poetry Review and the Pegasus Anthology.

Small bronze statuette of a male nude by Auguste Rodin, presented by the sculptor to Ms. Harold Nicholson (Vita Sackville-West) in 1915.





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FICTION BY
CLAUDIA LETTIERI

Shirley Dawson had perfected the orgasmic giggle in 1959 while inadvertently making love to her best friend, Donna Green, in their treehouse one scorching August afternoon. But she'd never driven a tractor trailer.

Actually, she'd never given the latter much thought before. The giggle, her most prized possession, she thought about often, always bringing a smile to her lips but, as a matter of fact, driving a tractor trailer had never even crossed her mind until late one night. She and Andrea had just finished making love, Andrea still trying, after three years to emulate the giggle—those velvety rich tones of the little girl and the woman intermingling at a moment of ecstasy. Now, Andrea lay asleep beside Shirley as the commercial flashed onto the TV screen guaranteeing serious respondents the ability to drive a tractor trailer.

The promise of higher wages meant nothing to Shirley, though Lord knows, she could always use some extra cash. But what really mattered was the challenge—could these teachers possibly teach this gawky 32 year old wreck of a human being who, for 14 years had sat hunched over a typewriter, smoking two packs of Virginia Slims a day, and hadn't exercised a muscle except while making love, and who, without her black framed glasses with the rhinestone chips, was legally blind, to drive a nine-ton rig?

Shirley took down the number and called the school the next day. Would Andrea grin up at her soon and tell the world with pride that Shirley's new profession had made their lives so much happier?

The school accepted the challenge, not to mention the tuition check she immediately sent them.

She took a leave of absence from her job, ostensibly to take "grace" lessons, a non-existent course offered at The Woman's School for women who wished to acquire the social and physical graces of the business world. Her boss had been suggesting such a course for years and was excited, thrilled even, by her news.

Feeling a bit put off by his jubilant reaction to her not being around for a while, Shirley left his office, catching her belt loop on the doorknob. Unhooking herself, she turned and giggled nervously at Jack Collins. She understood.

(NOTE: Shirley had a different giggle for almost every social situation. This sniggering giggle made her nose twitch.)

Andrea, when told of Shirley's intentions, immediately called an emergency session of her women's group who left a note:

Shirley,

We understand. But you're not alone in this. You're simply going thru your passage to the 30's.

Please feel free to talk to any of us at any time. If you feel you cannot share what you are experiencing with your friends, we suggest you try one of the following:

A therapist. Andrea has the names of the best women therapists practicing in New York.

A guru. Patty is willing to turn you on to her female Indian guru who has so beautifully altered her karma.

Please let us know if we can help you in any way.

When she got home that night, Shirley found the note and focused her alcohol-fuzzy eyes on it. Their suggestions. She had to toughen up, not go soft. She hadn't faced a challenge this stimulating since the summer of '60 when she'd accepted a dare

from Donna Green to ride the roller coaster at Steeple Chase Park and beat the neighborhood record, then held by Billy Blake—29 straight rides.

(NOTE: This was the summer following the discovery of the orgasmic giggle and the two fifteen year olds had matured.)

And she did it! Thirty wind-ups, whips and whirls, thrills and nausea. Oh, the nausea. She was pea green when Donna triumphantly peeled her skinny rubber body from the car. Donna rode the first and last ride with her. In the front seat.

Billy Blake insisted there had to be more than one witness to a championship performance and refused to relinquish the title. A guru indeed!

She plopped into the easy chair that had been used by her cats over the years as a scratching post and began to giggle.

(NOTE: This was a high-pitched, throaty giggle, heard most often when Shirley had been drinking Scotch—first with often when Shirley had been drinking Scotch—first with soda, then with water, and finally straight-up.)

The following Monday morning finally arrived. Shirley literally jumped out of bed at 6:30, the alarm having rung at the very moment, in her dream, she'd begun tap dancing on the Gong Show. This jolted her because Shirley had been the All-County Tiny MissTapper back in 1949. "The tapping gawk," her mother had called her.

Once up, she felt around for her glasses, couldn't locate them immediately and couldn't wait to relieve her morning bladder. She stumbled off to the bathroom, knocking the humidifying pan of water off the radiator.

But a few minutes later she luxuriated in the shower, excited and nervous about her first day in the rig.

Until she was overcome by an uncontrollable nicotine fit. She hung out from behind the daisy shower curtain and groped along the top of the toilet tank. Finally, a cigarette. And all the while trying her damndest not to get that beauty parlor blond hair wet. Not bad! Cigarette lit and only the bottom of her French twist got hit.

"I been workin' as a trucker, all my live long days. . ." Shirley began singing to the tune of "I've Been Workin' on the Railroad," while inhaling a Virginia Slim in the shower.



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(NOTE: Shirley had also perfected the art of smoking in the shower.)

"... Shirley won't you honk, Shirley won't you honk, Shirley won't you honk your hor-or-n-n. . ." she continued, singing louder and louder as she dressed and Andrea moaned in the bedroom, no longer convinced there was hope for her feather-brained lover.

The next weeks were hell. The school designed a special program for her. It included rigorous arm and leg building exercises: push-ups, chin-ups, sit-ups, weight lifting, running, bicycling. . . In the gym. With the male students working out. Shirley was the only female in the class.

The men told her she resembled Norton, of Honeymooners' fame. Only gawker. The rest of the time they talked CB. Their handle for her was Wet Noodle. She rarely understood a thing they were saying, knew it wasn't complimentary, but didn't even have enough energy for indignation. She was exhausted.

By the middle of the fourth week, she'd developed a small muscular lump on each of her biceps. She flexed them every day for the men, on her way out of the gym, hoping her sneaker wouldn't catch on the gym floor, causing her to trip. Some days it didn't.

But her boss was still going to be disappointed.

Andrea, in a last ditch effort, taped the list of therapists' names on the refrigerator door.

But Shirley was hell-bent on driving a tractor trailer. She progressed slowly. Very slowly. But she did progress.

So she started putting in some overtime—coming early to work out; staying late to run through the gears a few extra times.

By the fifth week, the men at the school switched their

southern CB talk into a form of encouragement: "We're copyin' ya, now, Wet Noodle. Comin' in smooth 'n' clear. Keep 'er straight into 35 an' you got yourself a good day's work."

35... push-up... up... up... 36... 37... Until she reached 40. Then 45. Then 50.

Switch. Chin up... down... up... down... In the middle of the sixth week, she surpassed Banana Boat, Sahara Syd and Ronald MacDonald in number of chin-ups.

Run... run... run... don't trip... run... And once, just once, the third Wednesday, she'd done the full mile without tripping, stumbling or falling. Thinking maybe Jack Collins would not be disappointed after all.

(NOTE: Shirley always giggled away these clumsy actions, having come to accept, enjoy them even, by this age.)

And then came the moment of truth. The big test. The moment to face the challenge.

Shirley was the first to pull out, ladies being first and all. She jumped into the cab, a Lucky Strike dangling confidently from her lips and gave a nervous giggle to the rotund instructor who sat beside her, clipboard in hand and smiled, "Luck to ya, Wet Noodle."

She revved the engine and as she shifted into first, the gears ground beneath her inexperienced, not quite strong enough legs. Like the concentric circles emanating from a pebble dropped into Lake Michigan, the grinding gears set off a vibration through the driver's seat.

Shirley picked up speed... third... fourth... more vibrations... fifth...

And then it happened. Driving a 9 ton rig in sixth gear... Shirley Dawson released the orgasmic giggle.

And the truck just kept on rollin'...



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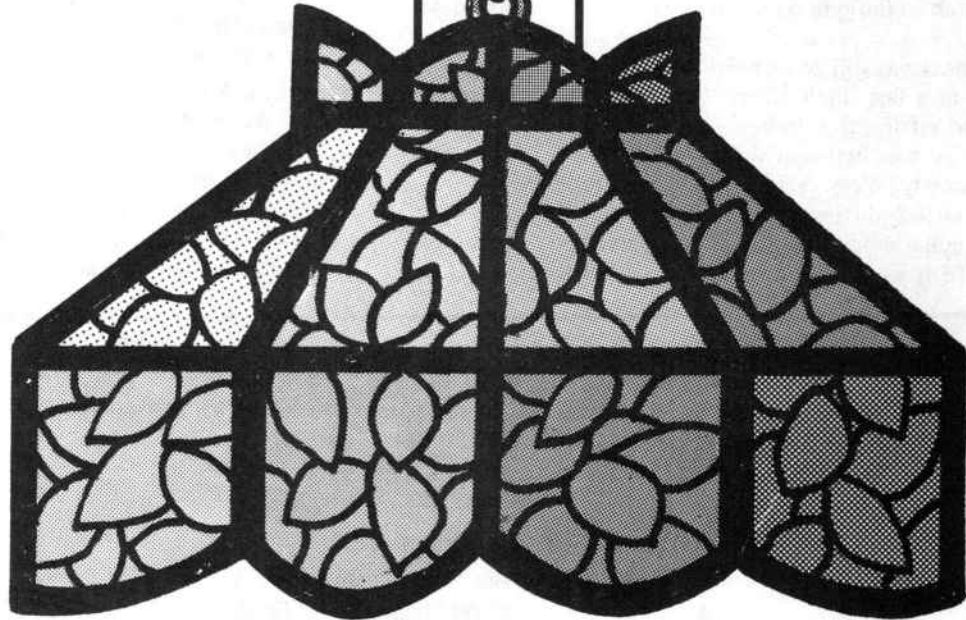
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HERE & THERE

Chicago, IL—Mary Houlihan, one of the co-founders of the Mass for the Gay and Lesbian Community, from which Dignity/Chicago was born, died on August 15.

Gaylife

Philadelphia, PA—Under the theme "Liberation Ethics: Responding to the Gospel", over 250 delegates from 30 cities attended the third annual Integrity Convention at the end of August, held at the University of Pennsylvania. Integrity (the Episcopal gay caucus) presented its annual Outstanding Achievement Award to the Rev. Canon Clinton Jones, Canon of the Episcopal Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford. Jones, the author of several books on counseling the homosexual, is a graduate of General Theological and New York Theological Seminaries, and a member of the Episcopal House of Bishops' Task Force on the Church and the Homosexual.

Gay Community News

Washington, D.C.—In a six-to-three decision, the Supreme Court has upheld the authority of customs inspectors to open mail coming into the United States from abroad if there is any "reasonable cause to suspect that the envelopes or packages contain contraband." The Government's argument that such inspections do not violate the Fourth Amendment was based upon the claim that border searches have not traditionally required a warrant.

The three dissenting Justices warned in their dissenting opinion that this decision would lead to "the wholesale secret examination of all incoming international letter mail," even though customs agents are expressly prohibited by law from reading any correspondence which is present in the envelopes.

Milwaukee Journal

Detroit, MI—The Michigan Civil Rights Commission has accepted a staff report on sexual orientation which contains a number of important recommendations. The report notes that both the Michigan Bar Association and Governor Milliken's Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice have urged decriminalization of homosexual acts as part of the reform of criminal laws. Michael Lockman of the Michigan Attorney General's Office has also offered public support of the staff report and of decriminalization, and has suggested that the Attorney General's Office include a directive to the Department to continue its involvements with the issue of civil rights protection for gays and assessment of the needs of gay people. The Michigan Civil Liberties Union has hailed the staff report as a major step forward, and as "a substantial change from past Commission policies."

Metro Gay News

Hollywood, CA—The International Union of Gay Athletes has met with executives of ABC-TV to protest the stereotypical characterization of a gay male in the series "Soap". The IUGA, which claims 1450 members in six countries (many of whom are college-level varsity athletes), charged that the character, who repeatedly wears his mother's clothing and talks about a sex-change operation, will contribute to the ridicule of gays. The IUGA was joined in its protest by the National Gay Task Force. ABC Vice-President of Standards and Practices, Rick Gitter, insisted that the character is "a homosexual who feels very good about his homosexuality." ABC-TV apparently feels that gays who "feel good" will want sex-change operations.

Press Release

Atlanta, GA—The Center for Disease Control here has verified 150 cases of the new penicillin-resistant strain of gonorrhea throughout the United States. The Center estimates that this is only a fraction of the cases of the new strain, since many persons under treatment for gonorrhea do not follow up after treatment to see if they have been cured. The new strain can be treated with spectinomycin, an antibiotic with no known side effects which is injected like penicillin. Physicians usually use penicillin first, so that detection requires a follow-up visit.

Press Release

Milwaukee, WI—A recent meeting of the mid-western regional leaders of Lutherans Concerned for Gays, held in Chicago, recommended that the first national meeting of the organization be scheduled at Valparaso, Indiana. Chicago was rejected as a site because Illinois has not passed the ERA amendment. Last week Valparaso University declined to host the organization because gay people weren't "socially or legally acceptable". Lutherans Concerned/Milwaukee is therefore submitting a proposal to host approximately 120 visitors in July 1978. Persons willing to help in planning for the conference should contact Bob Johnson at (414) 963-9833.

Press Release

Detroit, MI—The five-member steering committee of the Michigan Organization for Human Rights (MOHR) has announced plans for a convention to be held Oct. 14-16 in Lansing, for the purpose of formally organizing MOHR. Fund-raising efforts have already been initiated, as well as the search for qualified officers. Fee and registration procedures as well as summaries of the steering committee meetings, may be obtained by writing to: MOHR, Box 445-A, Detroit, MI. 48232

Press Release

THE GAY GOURMET

Sure-Fire Chili

Sooner or later we who like to cook get soundly stung by either of two hazards. The first is the "yeucch" trip. We spy an intriguing recipe which might be a treasure, one of those infrequent Finds—but it seems a trifle suspect too. We wonder—will all those kickily-different ingredients really blend docile into a new perfection? We proceed on trust—and lo indeed, the Tabasco-cheese-nutmeg mix just sits irritably separate, making war not love with the spinach. Cheers, you've gotten burned by yet another jerry-built, over-flashy recipe.

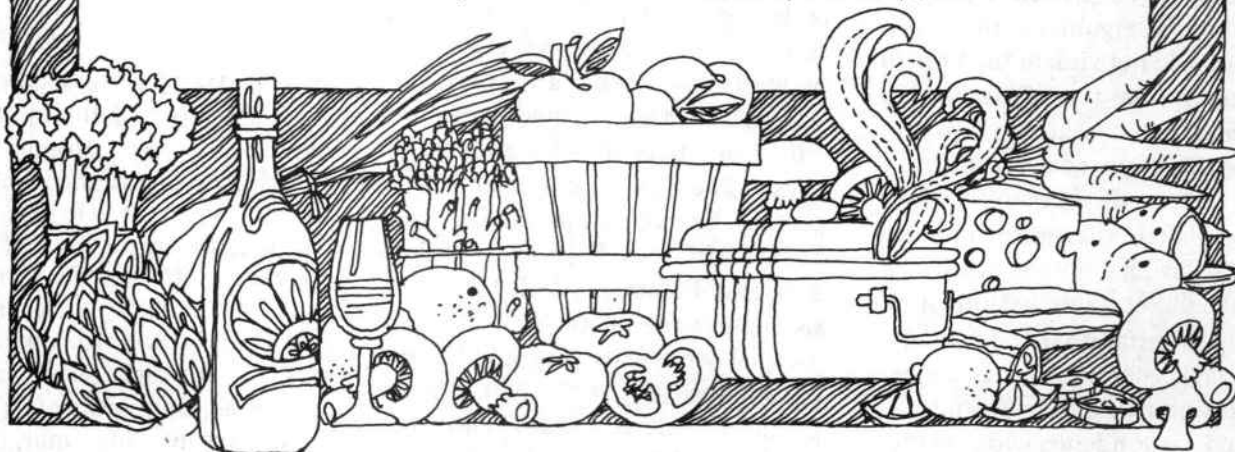
Then there's the "bleaahhh" trip. We spot another promising number—but again you must wonder, is it a live one really, or maybe just a duddy re-hash of so many former versions? Well again we forge pluckily ahead through all those tedious steps only to find that behold, we might as well of stood in bed with a can-opener. For never does it fly, it's voila, "Just Another Meatball Casserole" (or whatever).

Take heart—and trust us. Here's a **CHILI** that neither warps sour into a dissonant taste-skew, nor yet fades fails & fizzles into a bland never-mind-it-ness. Spiced it is, but not mouth-of-the-dragon style; it says Hi gently. I made it up myself.

1 lb GROUND BEEF	1 small can TOMATO PASTE
4 cups ONIONS—so-coarsely chopped	2 BEEF CUBES—dissolved
2 cloves GARLIC—peeled & smashed	SALT & PEPPER—to taste
2 med. cans TOMATOES—save juice!	3 med. cans KIDNEY BEANS

*****& the famous "DISH OF SEASONINGS": 3 Tblsps CHILI POWDER, *****
 *****1 Tblsp OREGANO, 2 tsp CUMIN, 2 tsp BASIL, and 1 BAY LEAF all*****
 *****crushed & broken up about it. [I personal do **not** add thyme, nor, for*****
 *****gods sake, hot stuff such as hotpeppers &ct. Less be c-o-o-l! 'bout it] *****

In heavy coverable pot, brown BEEF, remove and reserve. Cook ONIONS plus GARLIC just enough to mute the bite, **don't** wilt. Then add *most but not all* of the "Dish of Seasonings." Add the TOMATOES & the PASTE and enough of the saved JUICE to make as fluid as you like it. Return the meat to the pot and then aha, *the rest of* the "Seasonings." Simmer g-e-n-t-l-y for only about 5–30 minutes, not to death! Add the **very-well-rinsed** KIDNEY BEANS, heat thru, & **SERVE!!!!**



HERE & THERE

Fort Dodge, Ia.—A man who last year underwent sex reassignment surgery in Colorado has filed a lawsuit against the State of Iowa for refusing to pay for the surgery. Several social workers, doctors, and psychiatrists have offered written support of the claim of Verna Pinneke that Iowa's decision caused "mental anguish and suffering."

Quad City Times

Paris, France—In June French philosophers Jean Paul Sarte and Simone de Beauvoir signed petitions supporting gay rights. The petition had been circulated to coincide with a march for gay rights which was held in Paris, and which drew an estimated seven hundred persons, who carried placards protesting the homophobic Bryant campaign in Florida.

The petition read (in part): "The battle of Soviet dissidents, of those who oppose totalitarian regimes everywhere throughout the world, of women for the freedom to dispose of their own bodies. . .and of homosexuals for the right to exist are one and the same battle."

Le Monde

Rome, Italy—A recent change in Italian law permits a rapist to have all charges dropped if he promises to marry his victim.

Lesbian Connection

Chicago, Ill.—Columnist Mike Royko of the *Chicago Daily News* took a poll of the "Ten Most Obnoxious Americans" in September. Though sportscaster Howard Cosell was the "winner," Anita Bryant was the runner-up in the vote. Second to Howard Cosell, Bryant was higher on the obnoxious scale than the following dignitaries: Richard Nixon, Muhammad Ali, Barbara Walters, Phyllis Schlafly (anti-ERA crusader), Farris Fawcett-Majors, Billy Carter and Spiro Agnew.

Gaylife

San Francisco, Ca.—Several gay persons in the Bay Area have charged discrimination by Pacific Telephone Company based upon sexual orientation, and have also complained of the refusal of the California Fair Employment Practices Commission to listen to complaints from gay persons or organizations. The California Supreme Court has consented to hear these complaints in the near future.

Bay Area Reporter

San Francisco, Ca.—The Police Commission has approved a new hiring plan which includes recruitment of gays. Police Chief Charles Gain, who began advocating the hiring of gays when he was appointed in 1976, said the new recruiting plan will be based upon federal guidelines for the recruitment of minorities.

Quad City Times

Providence, RI—The Fraternal Order of Police, a national organization with over 150,000 members, voted unanimously at their national convention to oppose the hiring of gays as police officers.

The convention was held in Rhode Island in late August. One of the delegates commented during the discussion that gays ". . .are sick, sick, people, and shouldn't be hired as police officers."

Gay Community News

Houston, Tx.—Levi's, a Houston gay bar, has filed a \$3.5 million law suit against eleven Houston police officers and the City of Houston, alleging that the bar was the victim of police brutality which led to its closing. The suit, filed in August, claims that vice officers entered the bar in June, and "without provocation began beating manager Bob Jones and bartender Neil Man." At least one customer became involved also, and was unjustly treated by the officers.

Bay Area Reporter

Newark, DE—Richard Aumiller, former theatre director at the University of Delaware, was dismissed two years ago by the University president after accepting the position of faculty advisor to a campus gay organization. A two year court battle has just ended. The University signed an agreement accepting U.S. District Judge Murray Schwartz's June ruling which reinstates Aumiller for the 1976-77 academic year, and awards damages to him. Aumiller has since accepted a position at Duke University, and does not expect to return to Delaware. The Court also awarded him \$15,000 in compensatory backwages, and assessed punitive damages of \$5000 against the president of the University of Delaware. Total damages paid to Aumiller: \$20,000. Attorney's fees of \$60,000 will be settled as a separate issue, and the American Civil Liberties Union is presently negotiating with the University.

Cleveland Gay News

Cleveland, OH—Cleveland's City Council will soon be grappling with the issue of gay rights. Thomas H. Smith, a cofounder of NGTF and resident of Cleveland, reports that two members of the City Council have promised the introduction and sponsorship of a gay rights ordinance to representatives of local gay organizations. The ordinance would ban discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations. Smith anticipates a tough fight on the floor of the City Council.

Cleveland Gay News

Chicago, Ill.—The Gay/Lesbian Pride Planning Committee for 1978 held its first meeting in September. Officers and co-ordinators were elected for Gay Pride Week 1978. Proposals under consideration for 1978 include a street fair, formal dinner dance, longer parade route, and a convention. The Committee also hopes to sponsor Gay Pride events throughout the year.

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HERE & THERE

Washington, D.C.—Close to two out of three physicians who responded to an American Medical Association poll stated that their own medical training had not equipped them to treat either the clinical or psychological sex problems of their patients, and nine out of ten endorsed better sex training in med schools. Half of the doctors said that more patients are asking for sexual counseling these days, and 75% said that their patients were more willing to discuss sex than they were ten years ago.

Playboy Magazine

Quebec, Canada—The First National Congress of all gays and lesbians in Quebec is to be held the weekend of October 15-16 in Montreal. The Congress will be sponsored by the Association pour les Droits des Gai(e)s du Quebec (ADGQ). Agenda items and other information available from ADGQ, CP 36, Succursale C, Montreal, Quebec H2L 4J7.

The Body Politic

Boston, Ma.—Massachusetts Institute of Technology has disciplined or suspended four student officers of the campus newspaper for publishing a "consumer guide" rating the sexual prowess of 36 MIT men. The ratings ranged from four stars to one, but university authorities objected to the sampling technique by the students.

Playboy Magazine

Cleveland, Oh.—Municipal judges have warned Cleveland Mayor Ralph Perk that his much-publicized porn-survey won't carry much weight in court because of its obvious bias.

City sanitation workers went from house to house passing out questionnaires to establish specific community standards for the prosecution of adult bookstores and cinemas. The letter accompanying the questionnaire, signed by the mayor, contained a diatribe against "immoral books and films."

Playboy Magazine

Chicago, Il.—A majority of Chicago area Roman Catholic priests responding to a survey said that they do not support church teachings on birth control and masturbation, and only 10% said that they were bothered by their stand in opposition to dogma. 60% of the 140 respondents disagree publicly with church stands, and 78% said that they depart from church teaching in private counseling sessions. 39% are in public disagreement with the church's teaching that homosexual behavior is immoral, and 46% depart from this teaching in private sessions.

Quad City Times

Pasadena, Ca.—A tape-recorded telephone message from a Ku Klux Klan bookstore here urges the execution of all homosexuals. To get the message, call (703) 472-4451.

The Montrose Star

Houston, Tx.—U.S. District Court Judge R. Sterling declared Houston's controversial "2,000 foot" anti-porn ordinance unconstitutional on Aug. 31. The ordinance was designed to prevent adult bookstores or theaters from operating within 3,000 feet of any church, school, or charitable institution and was passed over a veto by the mayor. The court ruling came as a result of a suit filed by 19 adult businesses against the city of Houston and its Police Chief.

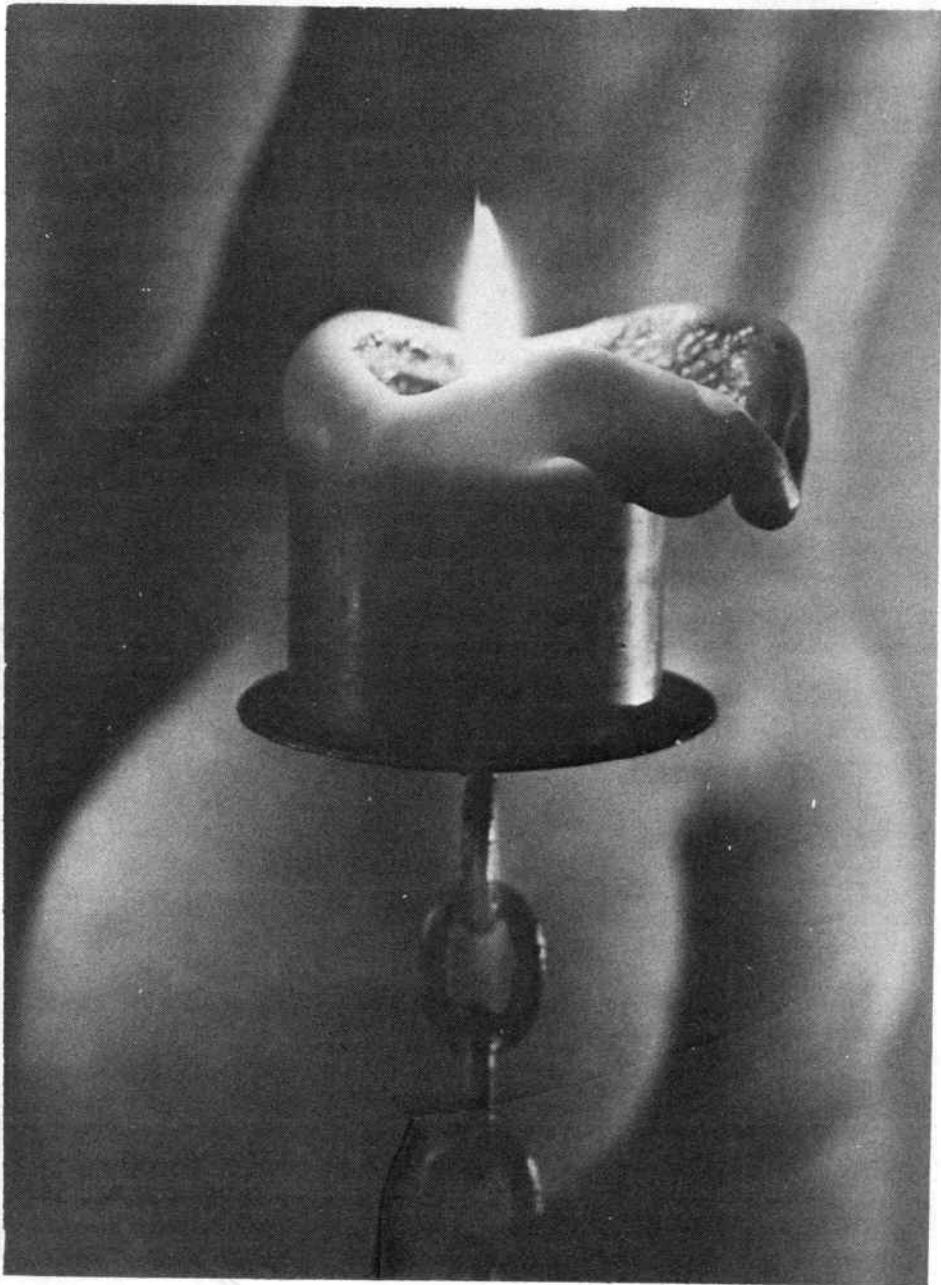
The Houston Star

Peterborough, Canada—The Board of Education has recently ruled that high school students must be taught that homosexuality is a "deviant" behavior and not an alternative form of sexual expression. The new definition is contained in resource material mandated to all health teachers in the system.

The Body Politic



"She thinks she's so smart, just 'cause her mother's a lesbian!"



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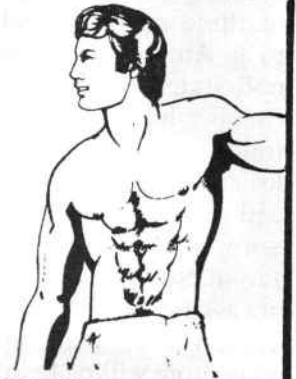
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REVIEW

Homosexuality: A Symbolic Confusion. By Ruth T. Barnhouse. NY: Seabury Press, 1977. 190 pp., \$8.95

Reviewed by Lee C. Rice, Ph. D.

Utilizing a combination of theological concepts and psychiatric insights developed in her own practice, Dr. Barnhouse attempts to offer a comprehensive overview of scientific perspectives as the basis for a re-examination of religious and social dimensions of homosexuality. Unfortunately, the 'scientific' matter which she brings to bear upon this theological development is that of psychiatry, a rather clear case of explaining *obscurum per obscurius*.

The first part of the book, really a single chapter, is on science and values. She there argues that science is relevant to value judgements, but her argument is based on the curious contention that science itself is not objective. The argument in this section is a rather muddled one, which draws equally on scriptural texts and the writings of Jung. By thus subjectivizing science, she concludes that fruitful cooperation between it and theology is indeed possible.

The middle part of the book takes the reader on a guided tour through the 'facts' about homosexuality and sexuality. There are brief chapters on history, anthropology, biology, sociology, politics, the contrasts between male and female sexuality, the psychodynamics of homosexuality, and the 'treatment of homosexuality.' Essentially these chapters provide capsule critiques of Karlen, Arno, and Tripp (all of whose studies conclude to the 'naturalness' and morality of gay relations). The criticism is in general outline a reworked version of Bieber's immaturity theory, with liberal doses of Jungian analysis tossed into the mix in order to prevent the notion of maturity from becoming too empirical (and thus falsifiable). It is not so much fear of womankind, but ignorance thereof, which produces

male homosexuality (conversely for female homosexuality). The ignorance is an indication of immaturity, or of stunted growth.

Parts III and IV, which really form a single and closing section of four chapters, are devoted to the moral interpretation of immaturity, "the goals of human sexuality," and a closing set of theological reflections. These chapters constitute largely a critique of the sympathetic account of gayness provided by Father John Mc Neill in **The Church And The Homosexual**. There are three central points which Barnhouse proffers in marked opposition of McNeill. First, homosexuality is never willed by God, since the heterosexual disposition is that which is dictated by biology (and, one presumes as an hidden premise, biological dispositions are dictated by whatever Gods there be). Secondly, she argues that, though disposition to gayness is determined by unconscious factors in psychic development, gays are responsible for being gay in any case; since we are one and all responsible for what goes on in the unconscious. Thirdly, she argues that there is no real reason for there being even a residue of homosexuals in society. Their presence in western society is due to the place of women in this bifurcated society. In China, for instance, where equality between the sexes is dictated by the political structure, homosexuality is non-

existent. Her evidence here is essentially newspaper reports and government (Chinese) sources. If this seems like a rather silly argument based on even sillier authorities, the reader should note that we are working here in a context of Jungian psychology and theology, where standards of evidence have never been frightfully high.

The argument against the morality of homosexuality is, however, not just a version of Freud's "anatomy is destiny" claim writ large with amateur ingressions into biology. The morality of sexuality for the author rests on its attaining completeness. Here again she is half-right. Many philosophers and psychologists do see sexual morality precisely in the completeness (rather than, for instance, the hedonic content) of a sexual act. By 'completeness' here is meant the satisfaction of the desire to be desired—incarnate and self-reflexive desire, to use an existentialist phrase which sounds more mystifying than it really is. The general idea is that, in sexual unions, it is not the person-as-body which I seek, but rather the person-as-desiring-me: sexual activity is completed in being the realization of a desire to be desired. Barnhouse does not appear to realize that completeness in this sense is an ideal, rather than a defining characteristic of sexual action. Quicky sex, whether gay or nongay, is apt not to be complete: not bad for all of that,

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but just the lesser good.

Most thinkers, working with the notion of completeness, have rightly concluded that this concept cuts across the homosexual-heterosexual continuum, there being no special reason why nongay acts must be complete, nor why gay acts should be incomplete. To this rather sensible and straightforward notion of completeness, however, Barnhouse adds a strong dose of the Jungian theory of sexual polarity: male and female are polar complements, so that one must have both in the sexual soup in order to make it complete. This is, of course, an equivocation on the notion of 'completeness.' Why are the sexes polar opposites, why is complementarity realizable only through polar opposites, what is lost and why in a non-polar coupling (gay)?—the only answer to these questions seems to be "It's magic." But then, magic has been a part of religious imagery since the beginning of time.

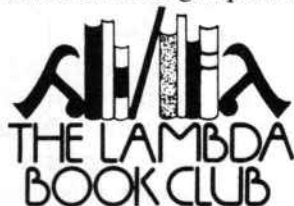
Barnhouse's treatment is not all bad. She has a firm grasp on the sym-

bolic or linguistic character of sexual activity—the imagery, imagination, and transcendence of the individual situation which goes into human sexual interaction. Human beings, as Freud clearly saw, are fundamentally sexual animals, in a sense to which none of our kinfolk on the evolutionary scale may lay claim to that title. But, as Freud clearly saw, and as Barnhouse does not, this omnisexuality of the human condition does not divide gays from nongays—it is, rather, what unites us and transcends the narrower categories of lifestyle.

There is always the temptation, with a book of this sort, to simply dismiss it as the incoherent ramblings of pseudo-science and religious obfuscation. The temptation should be resisted, for Barnhouse has much to say of human sexuality; and, where she is wrong (which happens, sadly, more often than not), even the errors are illustrative of points which require serious clarification. Her god is not your run-of-the-mill friendly neighborhood divinity, but rather

someone who has saturated the entire cosmos with meanings and symbolisms which it is the moral destiny of humankind to uncover. Perhaps ultimately this is the most pervasive error of all, for meanings and symbolisms are not discovered, but rather created by us. The failure to realize this point is what has characterized not only many religious thinkers (who try to spin out moral categories from a pre-ordained "natural law"), but also the Jungian school (which merely makes the natural law an internal set of psychic mechanisms). Intellectual liberation, one might say, must begin with the dissolution of just this myth. We are, as Sartre noted paradoxically, condemned to be free; for meaning, to be found, must first be created.

Dr. Barnhouse has created a study, not of science, but of mysticism, or rather mystification. Rather than symbolic confusions, her primary and considerable analytic prowess should perhaps have been directed to the problem of conceptual confusion.



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REVIEW

The Other Persuasion—Short Fiction About Gay Men and Women edited by and with an Introduction by Seymour Kleinberg, Vintage Books, New York, 1977, 350 pp., paperback \$3.95.

Reviewed by Peter Pehrson

As it happens, I write about the stories in this anthology on July 4th. The day is, in a sense, a celebration of the power of words and writers and fictions. Today, the Declaration of Independence—about whose virtues one is expected to reminisce between comments on the muggy air and between lapses in conversation when the host leaves the room to make more drinks. One might well wax expertly because the document was precisely reproduced in today's New York Times. It was on the reverse of the sports section. The conversation of the party I attended, where the host mixed too many rum and tonics and the room was tight and breathless, was not about the enormous lack of gay rights in America for the past two hundred and one years. It was not about the Declaration of Independence and its effect on gay lives—two distinctions one might realize and connect. The topics of conversation were of a dietary product called Drop Fast and the fact that three dozen styrofoam boats, each no more than thirteen feet long running into each other in the Hudson River in ninety degree heat could hardly be called a regatta.

It is this and a last fact—tonight Macy's being the only municipal institution able to afford it, will set off a million dollar firework display—that underscores the impressively un-subtle irony of living in a country that imprints "Freedom For All" on its silver dollars. We are celebrating history today and its effect on us.

All this has to do with **The Other Persuasion** in a most important way. For a great while, some of the only

gay history available to us was through writers and usually writers of fiction. Novels, short stories and myths were "safe" territory to discuss and explore because the writer had always the buffer (and excuse) of imagination. When D. H. Lawrence movingly described male sexuality and affection in **Women in Love**, no one accused him of being homosexual. After all, he was married and just exercising his creative talents. Or writers could place their characters in circumstances which shielded overt sexuality. The circumstances might be historical, as with David and Jonathan, Alexander the Great, or Edward II. They could be moral: Oscar Wilde, Balzac, or, modern: Pasolini. The moral tact was the usually favored one by teachers, parents, ministers and up-tight peers. The characters or authors could then be dismissed with a moral judgement after being discussed in great detail.

It is under the heading **Lesbian Excesses-Punished-In-The-End** that the first story in **The Other Persuasion** Proust's **Before Dark** (1893) outlines a lesbian confessing the untowardness of her ways on the eve of death. She has, predictably, shot herself from overwhelming remorse. As the pain spreads up her side and chest, she implores her male friend/confidant not to despise her too much for what she really is. This type of story with melodrama oozing from each paragraph lends itself to the easy barb, the one line pan or flip criticism. But it is important here and with each story arranged chronologically in this collection to understand what sort of vision is unfolding. We are understanding somewhat less about Proust's character, Françoise, than we are about Proust himself. He couldn't even decently discuss lesbianism without killing off his character. She is his mouthpiece because he was unable to, perhaps, keep original masculine pronouns.

Gertrude Stein's **Mabel Neathe** is for readers who have been inoculated for "Steinism." They will be pleasantly surprised to find in this

earlier work (1903) a conventional plot, development and story line. **Mabel Neathe** is a story of farewell notes received on board departing steamliners, inter-Continental comings, and goings, and examinations of sentimental love heightened by Edwardian restraints. In a rare display of Stein's surface humor, we are introduced to Mabel Neathe:

"Mabel Neathe's room fully met the habit of many hours of unaggressive lounging. She had command of an exceptional talent for atmosphere. The room, with its very good shape, dark walls, but mediocre furnishings and decorations was more than successively unobtrusive, it had perfect quality. It always had just the right amount of light necessary to make mutual observation pleasant and yet to leave the decoration in obscurity or rather inspire a faith in their being good." And later, "The average quest expressed it in the simple comment that she was a perfect hostess, but the more sympathetic observers put it that it was not that she had the manners of a perfect hostess, but the more unobtrusive manners of a gentleman."

These two stories comprise the introductory section called "Prologue: Underground." Underground indeed.

On The Fringe: From Tragedy To Camp outlines from D. H. Lawrence's **Prologue to Women In Love** (1921) to **Miss A and Miss M** in 1972 a striking panoply of gay interpretive history. There are not many surprises here with Radclyffe Hall's **Miss Ogilvy Finds Herself**, **The Sea Change** by Hemingway and **Letters and Life** by Christopher Isherwood. What is a delight is Paul Bowles's **Pages From Cold Point**. Here is some of the deepest and darkest detailing of "forbidden" areas of sexuality between a father and son.

Halfway through this middle section is Edmund White's **The Beautiful Room Is Empty**. White is an undeservedly poorly-read writer whose novel **Forgetting Elena** failed to sell not because of talent and excellent

crafting, but because it is unconventional. **The Beautiful Room Is Empty** is certainly no disappointment.

Momma details a gay bar in liberated Italy shortly after the occupation of World War II. This story by John Horn Burns is the history that couldn't come from the history books anymore than it could come from your father's lips, had he been fortunate enough to stop into this particular place in Naples.

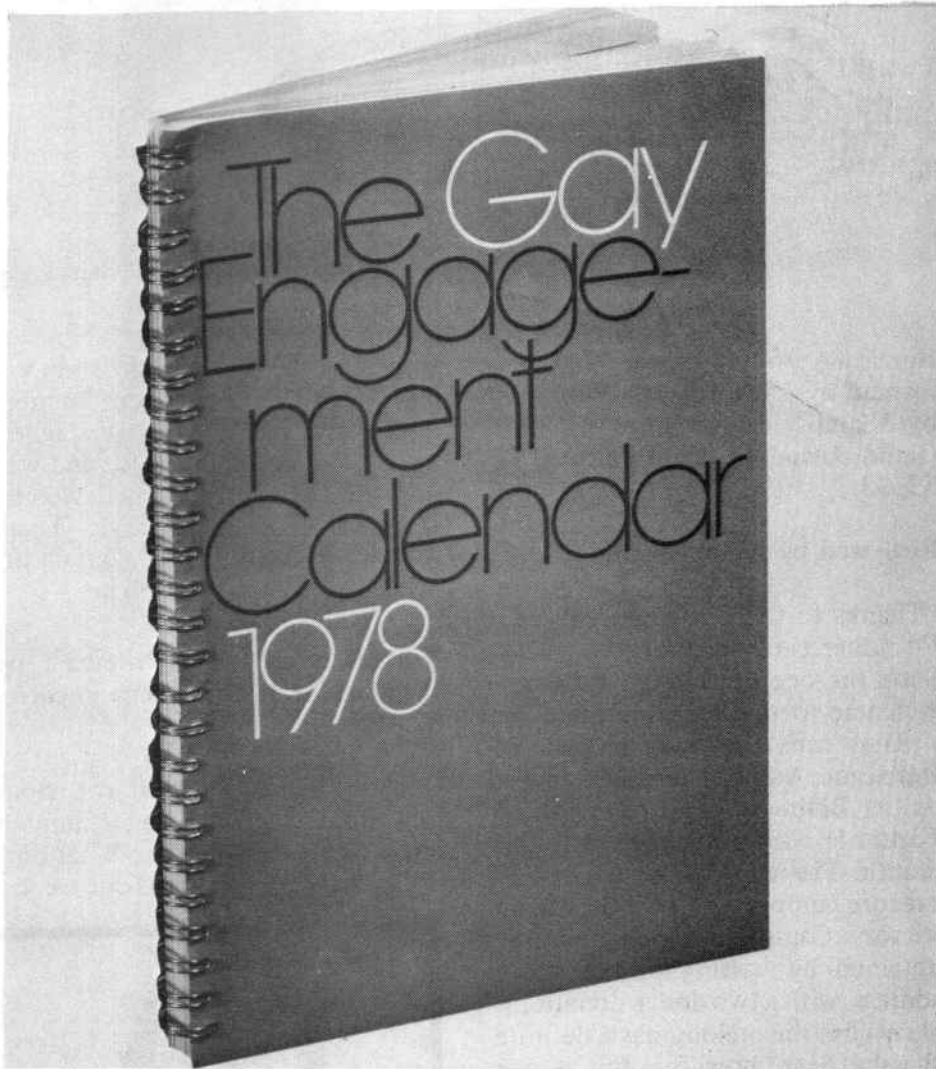
The last section contains stories in excellent counterpoint to the first two. **Inside: Toward New Definitions** has two stories by Doris Betts (**Burning the Bed**, 1973) and Jane Rule (**Middle Children**, 1975). We have come to a point where our history is all around us and now the journey to interior is called for. Gayness is not longer the central issue. Furtiveness is unnecessary. These authors examine, pessimistically, parental relationships and sibling rights.

All this is prefaced by a smartly turned Introduction by editor Seymour Kleinberg. The Introduction is worth the price of the book alone. The title, unfortunately, is the only mar. For someone who is a founding member of the **Gay Academic Union**, and an English Literature teacher, Kleinberg might choose his words somewhat differently. The whole political tract that simply shines in precision and wisdom in the Introduction is thrown off by the title, **The Other Persuasion**. (It's also likely that Kleinberg had no choice in the title.) The title implies that homosexuality is a choice and, that with the proper arguments and the cleverest phrases, a gay might be "persuaded" by the right rhetoric to become heterosexual. T'aint so.

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OFF THE RECORD

Hurricane Anita written and performed by Lynn Frizzel. Published by Miami Victory Campaign, 3041 Grand Avenue, Coconut Grove, FL 33133.

Reviewed by Mike Vaughn

"Thanks to the Citrus Queen, I'd rather eat a tangerine She's the one preaching hate. Welcome to the Sunshine State."

Thus runs the opening verse of **Hurricane Anita**, a record I picked up at **Billboard Magazine's Disco Forum** in New York City early this month. The record is not pressed by a record company, but by the Miami Victory Campaign (copies may be obtained by writing to the above address, with a two dollar donation). Musically, the melody has a definite cha-cha beat, however, this is one record I would rather have listened to than danced to.

Lyrically, a chorus with several verses; verbally, beyond a doubt anti-Anita Bryant. Intended to be humorous, yet taken seriously at the same time, the chorus makes the statement of the Miami Victory Campaign very clear:

"Hurricane Anita, the season's first bad storm/Hurricane Anita, destruction is her norm/Hurricane Anita, Miami's bag of wind/Hurricane Anita, she's at the bitter end."

The verses do not follow each other to develop a continuous story line, as amny ballads do; rather each verse is a self contained, camp statement, using lines such as "Florida Orange Juice makes me feel gay as a goose" and "Save our Children from that bitch."

The record is intended to crack a

smile, but the fact that the song was written and recorded should remind us of Anita and her followers, ignorance and bigotry, still alive and well in Dade County Florida. I wonder if the U.S. Weather Service heard **Hurricane Anita** before naming this season's first tropical storm.


Village People, LP, Produced by Jacques Morali, Casablanca Records, \$2.49.

This LP has been out for about two months and has been number one in **Billboard Magazine's** national disco chart for the last four weeks.

The producer, Jacques Morali, was involved in writing all of the music; he also produced the last three Richie Family LPs, as well as several disco singles.

When reading advance reviews of this record in **Billboard** magazine, I noticed the following blurb: "The theme deals with human rights and freedom of self expression. . . This is an unusual album." (**Billboard Magazine, July 16, 1977**). When I received my demonstration copy later that week, that review became clearer. The cover photographs show several men grouped around cycles on Folsom Street in San Francisco. In addition to the musician credits on the back there are credits for a dancer at the Anvil (a leather bar in New York) and Colt Studios.

Side A, "San Francisco/Hollywood" is a medley. San Francisco mentions Folsom Street, the leather scene, discos, and the freedom of the "city by the bay." Hollywood is more uptempo, with the lyrics being slightly sarcastic. It describes



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the plastic, glitter atmosphere of Hollywood, "where everybody is a star." This cut mentions the well known L.A. gay spot, Studio One, several times.

Side B has "Fire Island", which talks about the well known gay vacation spot off Long Island. In addition to mention of the Ice Palace and the Sandpiper (Fire Island's two discos), you are warned to stay away from the bushes or "someone might grab you." "Village People," the final cut on the B side, is a call for action and unity among the people of Greenwich Village. All cuts are extremely danceable, which really is a drawback since it takes a long time for the person dancing to realize what the words are about.

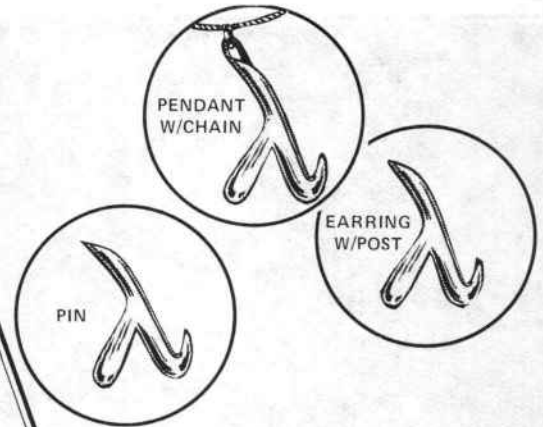
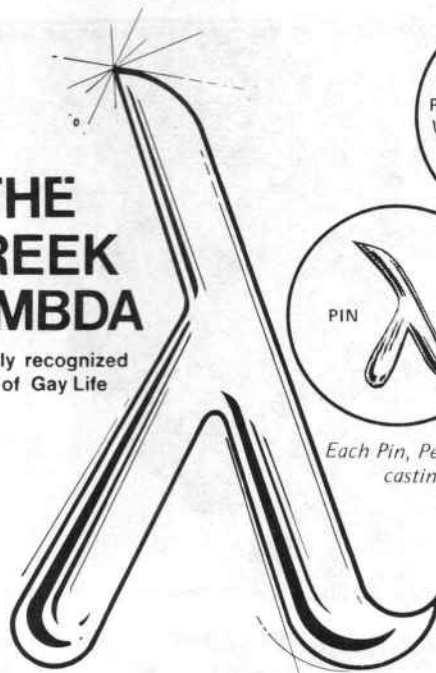
This LP is significant for several reasons. First is the content. Here is a record with all themes dealing with gay people and their life style today. Second, the particular facet of the recording industry the record was delivered in: disco. There is one fact about the disco industry which is painfully overlooked, namely that gay nightclubs were pioneering this dance industry four or five years before straight people were even interested. Disco is but another facet of entertainment in which gay people figure prominently. What better environment could there be in which to present **Village People** than the disco.

Undoubtedly, the reason this record has been number one for a full month in both straight and gay clubs is because of the dance quality of the music and not the theme, but, hopefully through all the poppers and lights of the dance floor, the words are sinking into a few heads and a positive statement for gay people is being made.

Mike Vaughn, a native of Madison, Wisconsin, has been a disco DJ for 3 years. He was the DJ for 2½ years at the Back Door in Madison, for 6 months at 7th Heaven in Rockford, and since June of this year has been head DJ at the Circus Disco in Milwaukee.

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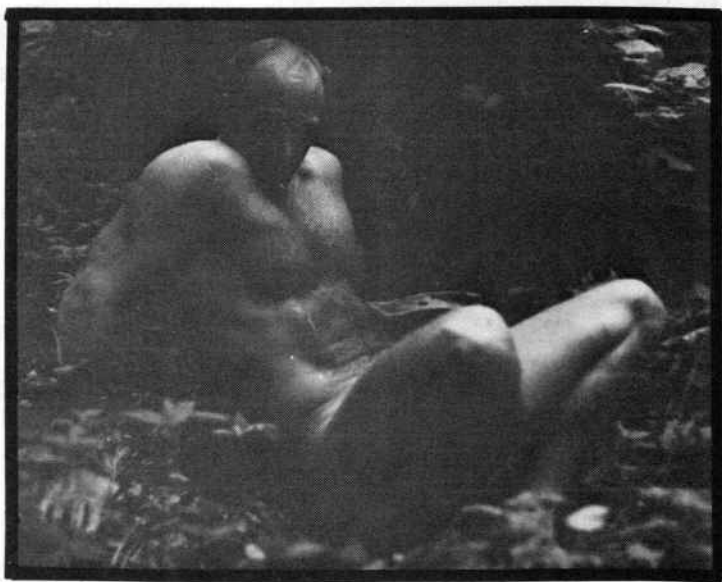


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IMAGES

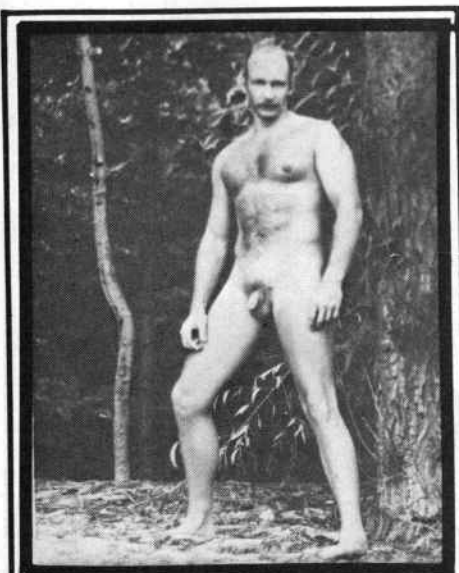


by joel



CALENDAR

Any person, group or business who wishes to have a free announcement of an upcoming event should send copy before the 25th of any month for the next issue.



- OCT 1 Red Lion Bar (LaCrosse) Oktoberfest, 8 a.m.—2 a.m., 120 S. 3rd, Street, Phone (608) 782-9172 for information.
- OCT 2 Gold Coast Movie Night (Chicago), "The Owl and the Pussycat" MCC Movie Party (Milwaukee), "Lawrence of Arabia", Phone 962-6532 for information.
Red Lion Bar (LaCrosse) Oktoberfest, see entry for Oct 1.
- OCT 3 Gay Peoples Union (Milwaukee) meeting, 8 p.m., The Farwell Center, 1568 N. Farwell.
Red Lion Bar (LaCrosse) Oktoberfest, Week through Oct 6. 7 p.m.—2 a.m., see Oct 1 listing.
- OCT 5 Man's Country Movie Night (Chicago), film to be announced.
- OCT 6 Little Jim's Movie Night (Chicago), 9 p.m., "Flying Down to Reno"
- OCT 7 MCC (Milwaukee) Movie Party, "Women in Love" and "Last Tango in Paris", phone 962-6532 for information.
Saugatuck Lodges (Michigan) Film Festival.
- OCT 8 Saugatuck Lodges (Michigan) Free Buffet.
- OCT 9 Milwaukee Human Rights Alliance benefit for Patrick Batt discrimination case (Milwaukee). On Broadway. Full production of "Let My People Come," 8:30 p.m., \$3.50 donation.
Gold Coast Movie Night (Chicago), "Singin' in the Rain", 5&10 p.m.
- OCT 10 Gay Peoples Union (Milwaukee) meeting, 8 p.m., The Farwell Center, 1568 N. Farwell.
- OCT 12 Man's Country Movie Night (Chicago) to be announced.
- OCT 13 Little Jim's Movie Night (Chicago), 9 p.m., "Gay Divorcee."
- OCT 14 Michigan Organization for Human Rights Convention (Lansing) through Oct 16. For information write MOHR, Box 445-A, Detroit, Mi 48232.
Gay Coalition of Iowa (Des Moines), Memorial Service for Gay victims of bigotry, Des Moines Unitarian Church, Bell and Cassidy Streets.
- OCT 15 National Congress of Gays & Lesbians (Montreal, Quebec) through Oct 16. For information write ADGQ (CP 36, Succursale C, Montreal, Quebec H2L 4J7 or phone (514) 843-8671.
- OCT 16 Gold Coast Movie Night (Chicago), 5 & 10 p.m., "My Fair Lady." Saugatuck Lodges (Michigan) Free Buffet.
- OCT 17 Gay Peoples Union (Milwaukee) meeting, 8 p.m., The Farwell Center, 1568 N. Farwell.
- OCT 19 Man's Country Movie Night, (Chicago), film to be announced.
- OCT 20 Little Jim's Movie Night (Chicago), 9 p.m., "Roberta."
- OCT 21 MCC (Milwaukee) Movie Party, "Midnight Cowboy" and "Klute" Phone 962-6532 for information.
- OCT 22 Saugatuck Lodges (Michigan), Fall Tour, Film Festival & Buffet. Through Oct 23.
- OCT 23 Gold Coast Movie Night (Chicago), 5 & 10 p.m., "Futureworld"
- OCT 24 Gay Peoples Union (Milwaukee) meeting, 8 p.m., The Farwell Center, 1568 North Farwell.
- OCT 25 MCC (Milwaukee) Movie Party, "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" for information call 962-6532.
- OCT 26 Man's Country Movie Night (Chicago), film to be announced.
- OCT 27 Little Jim's Movie Night (Chicago), "Follow the Fleet."
- OCT 28 Pride of Lambda Benefit Show (Cedar Rapids), Side Track Lounge 324 Second Ave. S.E., also on Oct 29.
Saugatuck Lodges (Michigan) Halloween Costume Party, through October 29.
- OCT 30 Hallelujah Halloween (Milwaukee) Miss Gay Wisconsin and Mr. Groovy Guy Contest, Centre Stage, 624 N. 2nd, 7 p.m., donation \$10. (see ad elsewhere this issue for details).
Gold Coast Movie Night (Chicago) 5 & 10 p.m., "Silent Movie"
- OCT 31 Ball Game (Milwaukee) Halloween Party (see ad elsewhere)
Gay Peoples Union (Milwaukee) meeting. Farwell Center.

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Gay Alcoholics Anonymous

Meetings Sundays at 6 p.m., The Farwell Center, 1568 N. Farwell. Call 272-3081 and ask for group 94.

Gay People's Union, Inc.

Meetings every Monday at the Farwell Center, 1568 N. Farwell. Meetings start at 8:00 pm. Business meetings the first Monday of each month. The Farwell Center now open every night from 7:30 to 11:00. Call 271-5273 or write P. O. Box 92203, Milwaukee, WI 53202

GPU VD Clinic

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GPU VD LINE PHONE: 347-1222

Lutherans Concerned for Gays—Milwaukee

For information write: PO Box 92872, Milwaukee, WI 53202 or call 963-9833.

The Metropolitan Community Church

P.O. Box 1612, Milwaukee, WI. 53201. Now meeting at 1108 North Jackson each Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

Silver Star Motorcycle Club

Business meeting every 2nd Sunday of the month. Write PO Box 1176 Milwaukee, WI 53201. Club night every 2nd Friday at the Wreck Room.

Milwaukee Health Department Social Hygiene Clinic

841 N. Broadway, Room 110
Phone: 278-3631

Clinic hours: Monday & Thursday from 11:30 AM to 7:15 PM; Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 8:30 AM to 11:15 AM and 12:45 PM to 4:00 PM.

UWM Gay Community

Meetings Wednesdays at 7:30. PM in the Union (check daily event sheet for room) Write c/o Student Union, UWM Milwaukee, WI 53211. Call 963-7359.

WISCONSIN

Fox Valley Gay Alliance

Serving Appleton—Oshkosh area. Meets twice monthly For information write: P.O. Box 332, Menasha, WI 54952 or call 414-731-5576.

Gay Students Association/Oshkosh

Univ. of Wis., Oshkosh, Box 51, Dempsey Hall, Oshkosh, WI 54901. Meetings twice monthly, info and counseling available. Write or call 414-426-0832.

Lesbian Switchboard

306 N. Brooks (UYMCA)
Madison, WI 53715
(608) 257-7378 -7-10 PM

Madison Committee For Gay Rights

PO Box 324 Madison WI 53701
Phone (608) 251-2937

Madison Gay Center

1001 University Avenue
Madison, WI. 53715

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IOWA

Pride Of Lambda

Meetings held at the People's Unitarian Church, 600 3rd Ave SE, Cedar Rapids. Monthly newsletter, regular meetings. Call 364-0454 or write: PO Box 265, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406.

CHICAGO

Dignity/Chicago

Catholic Mass, Sundays 7PM, 824 West Wellington, Phone 525-3564 or write Box 11261, Chicago, Ill 60611.

Fox Valley Gay Association

Serving Chicago and Suburbs. Gay hotline (312 695-3080), counseling, monthly newsletter, weekly meetings and rap sessions. Phone hotline or write: FVGA, Box 186, Streamwood, IL 60103.

Gay News and Events Line

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Gender Services

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Mattachine Midwest

Box 924, Chicago, Il 60690 337-2424

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For those over 40. Germania Club. 108 W Germania Pl. 3rd Fridays. 372-8616 (days) for information.

One Of Chicago

615 W. Wellington. 1st Fridays. Call 372-8616 for information.

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Subscribe to GAY LIFE, the bi-weekly midwest gay newsletter. \$15 a year (1st class) \$8 a year (2nd class). Write to Gay Life, 205 W Wacker Dr., Suite 2020 Chicago, IL 60606.

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